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Champion
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COUNCIL UNVEILS 30-YEAR VISION FOR BOROUGH

...but opposition groups blast 'crazy' proposals

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs Council has unveiled its development vision for the next 30 years, including the provision of nearly 16,000 new homes and 190 hectares of land for employment uses.

If approved by council's cabinet at its meeting next Tuesday (September 11) the Local Plan Review Preferred Options paper will undergo a six-week consultation beginning on Thursday, October 11.

However, the proposals have been criticised by both the Conservative group on the council and Our West Lancashire's Councillor Adrian Owens.

Conservative leader, Councillor David Westley, said: "Labour's intention to scrap the existing Local Plan is crazy. It still has nine years to run, is meeting local housing need and has withstood legal challenges in respect of rogue developments.

"They want to replace it with a completely new Local Plan covering an unprecedented 30 years."

Meanwhile, Cllr. Owens, a former deputy leader of the council, said the plans are based on "entirely the wrong premise" and with no deal to deliver the new road and rail links that would be required.

Included in the proposals - which incorporate commitments made in the existing 2012-2027 Local Plan - are plans for 8,572 new dwellings and 150 hectares of land for employment uses in Skelmersdale and the south-eastern parishes. It is proposed that 6,000 of these homes and 100 hectares of employment land will be delivered through the allocation of three new garden villages, a logistics park and extensions of White Moss Business Park to the west and south-west of Skelmersdale.

Attractive

The council says this would make a significant contribution to the business case for creating a Skelmersdale rail link, make development proposals in the town centre more attractive to businesses and create a wide range of new job opportunities in growing business sectors.

Ormskirk and Aughton have been earmarked for significant housing development of 3,000 dwellings with 10 hectares of land for employment purposes.

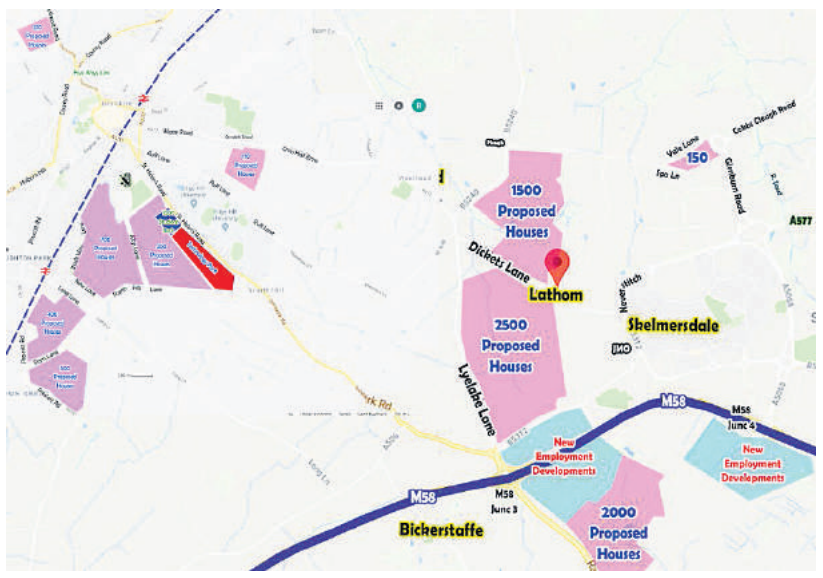
Around 2,000 dwellings are proposed to be delivered through the creation of new garden neighbourhoods to the south-east of Ormskirk and Aughton.

Around 20 hectares of land will also be set aside to the south of St Helens Road to deliver a new Knowledge Park to accommodate businesses,

The council says that this development will attract new, hi-tech businesses to Ormskirk and provide much-needed purpose-built student accommodation to alleviate the demand for houses of multiple occupation. It will also enable university graduates to stay in West Lancashire by offering more of the right type of jobs and accommodation for young professionals to buy and rent, and support Ormskirk town centre businesses.

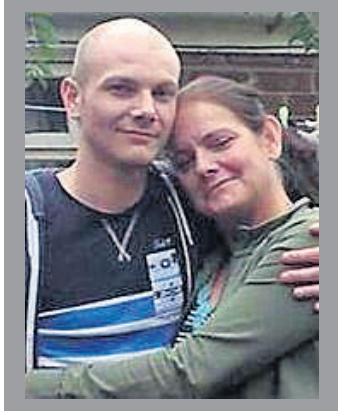
Housing and employment land allocations for the rest of the borough include 1,495 dwellings for Burscough and the central parishes along with 25 hectares for employment uses; 1,435 dwellings for northern parishes with five hectares for

Continued on Page 2



Map detailing some of the proposed development in the Local Plan Review Preferred Options paper.

INSIDE THIS WEEK...



Mother's booze petition

Married 78 years!

CROSSWORD
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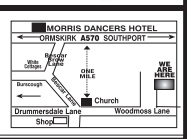

Council cabinet to consider proposed Preferred Options for Local Plan Review

From Page 1

employment, 923 dwellings for the western parishes and 564 dwellings for the eastern parishes.

The report for the cabinet outlining the 'preferred options', which will also go before the planning committee on Thursday (September 6), was prepared by the director of development and regeneration, John Harrison.

He said: "By planning so far into the future, the Local Plan gives greater certainty about where development will take place over the next 30 years. It will enable the council to better manage new development in a way that creates more sustainable communities, provides homes for all parts of the community and takes advantage of opportunities emerging from the anticipated economic growth, including those stimulated by the expanded Port of Liverpool.

"Alongside this, a longer-term Local Plan can create the opportunities to deliver the infrastructure that new development will need and health and wellbeing benefits for the residents of West Lancashire.

"A robust Local Plan also means the council will be in a better position to make planning decisions so they are done at a local level rather than being made by a national planning inspector."

If approved by the cabinet, residents in the borough will be provided details of the consultation, where they can attend to ask questions of council officers, and how they can comment.

However, Councillor Westley accused the council of not appreciating the importance of Green Belt.

Councillor David Westley.

Councillor Adrian Owens.

He said: "Labour also want to ditch the established practice of safeguarding sites identified for future development. This would mean the council abdicating its responsibility to manage the release of sites and allow developers, or as Labour say the 'market', to decide which sites should be developed first. It would also mean that all the sites needed for the next 30 years would be made available for development from 2020.

'Irresponsible'

"Apart from wanting a huge increase in the annual target for both house building and commercial development, Labour want to provide land to meet the housing and commercial development needs of Merseyside - 6,256 new homes and hundreds of acres of new industrial estates.

"The official figure for population growth in West Lancashire is 6,000 by 2041 and this can be met by the existing Local Plan yet Labour want to triple this rate of growth by attracting large numbers into the borough from neighbouring areas.

"The Conservatives insist that land for future housing in the borough should be strictly limited to that required to meet the local need with the maximum use being made of brownfield sites. Releasing Green Belt land should only be done as a last resort.

"Labour's plans are irresponsible and if implemented, would have a devastating impact right across West Lancashire. They simply do not appreciate the importance of our Green Belt."

Meanwhile, Cllr. Owens said that the current Local Plan is working well and protecting Green Belt and that many of the proposed new houses would be built on prime farming land and the rural area around Skelmersdale would be changed beyond recognition.

He said: "The council have currently allocated enough land for development until 2027. "The only reason that Labour are having to allocate so much additional land for house building now is because they have chosen to meet the housing needs of Merseyside authorities to the tune of around 6,500 homes and run the plan over an enormous 38-year period.

"The result will be that the prime, large sites will be snapped up first and developed rapidly by large house builders, and all this without even any promise of any significant extra road or rail links."

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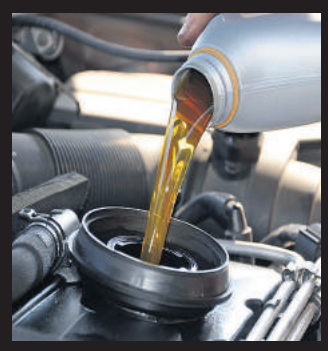

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Breakfast club goes down a treat

THE Skelmersdale Holiday Breakfast Club, which was held every week day over the school summer holidays, has been hailed a success by organisers.

The club was organised by Councillor Claire Cooper, from Birch Green ward, and SHARES, a not-for-profit company set up to provide a range of support services to primary schools in Skelmersdale and Up Holland.

Working in collaboration with the Friends of Skelmersdale Library, The Junk Food Cafe and Skelmersdale library, the club supplied more than 250 breakfasts.

About the same number of packed lunches were provided by the Junk Food Cafe (Birchwood Centre) at no charge to anyone who attended.

Also, at the library there were a range of different activities to do from 9.30 to 10.30am each morning anyone going along.

Councillor Cooper said: "Many of the young people who came were not aware of all the activities that take place in Skelmersdale library, particularly during the school holidays and they were also able to take part in clubs and visits as well as the summer reading challenge.

"We will continue to hold the holiday breakfast club at half-term in the library and, if we get enough volunteers, in other places across Skelmersdale."

Anyone wishing to volunteer or donate can email Councillor Cooper at claire4birchgreen@gmail.com or ring 07742 927689.

West Lancs Mayor, Councillor Noel Delaney and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gaynar Owen with members of the Holiday Breakfast Club.

Hotter aims to put an extra kick into cancer charity's fundraising drive!

LEADING footwear brand, Skelmersdale-based Hotter, has released a limited-edition Daffodil boot which will help raise vital funds for terminal illness charity Marie Curie.

The new design is an adaptation of Hotter's best-selling Pixie Boot, which includes daffodil print lining, yellow thread and tassel highlights, inspired by Marie Curie's iconic emblem.

And for every pair of boots sold, £20 will go to the charity, helping to fund an hour of Marie Curie nursing care for people living with a terminal illness.

The boot will be available to buy for £85 from all Hotter stores nationwide and from Hotter.com from Thursday, September 13.

This is the second Marie Curie-inspired item Hotter have revealed, following the successful Daffodil Mabel shoe, which has raised more than £37,000 since its launch which coincided with the charity's Great Daffodil Appeal.

Amazing

Hotter chief executive officer, Sara Prowse, said: "We're eight months into our 12-month partnership with Marie Curie and we've already raised a phenomenal amount towards our target.

"The limited edition Daffodil shoe we created in spring raised an amazing £37,000 for the charity which will help pay for more than 1,800 hours of nursing care. In autumn we wanted to continue this success with a limited edition Daffodil boot."

In January this year Hotter named Marie Curie as its first official charity partner. Since then the company has raised more than £55,000 for the terminal illness charity, through the Daffodil Mabel, as well as fundraising shop challenges, danceathons, cycle races and in-store tea parties.

Hotter product co-ordinator Gemma Davies with a pair of the limited edition Daffodil boots.

Tsjanneke Hawkins-van der Cingel, corporate partnerships manager at Marie Curie, said: "Following the success of the Daffodil Mabel, we're absolutely delighted that Hotter have revealed this limited-edition version of their much-loved Pixie Boot, as every pound raised will make a big difference to people living with terminal illness, and their loved ones.

"Hotter's enthusiasm in supporting Marie Curie and finding innovative ways to fundraise is fantastic - everyone at Marie Curie and everyone we support is very grateful."

The Daffodil Pixie is available from September 13 at www.hotter.com and at Hotter stores nationwide.

Mum of tragic alcoholic launches petition calling for the price of strong cider to be increased

Joanne's son died aged just 31 after becoming addicted to cheap booze now she is calling on the Government to act to save others following the same self-destructive path

Report by **Henry James**

A GRIEVING Skelmersdale mother whose son had become addicted to white cider and died last month from alcoholism has launched a petition to get the price of the drink increased.

Joanne Handford's son Kyle died while holding his mum's hand on Thursday, August 9. He was just 31-years-old.

Now Joanne is calling for the price of white cider to be increased to discourage others from being tempted to follow the same destructive path and has enlisted the support of West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper.

Joanne told the Champion: "I can't believe Kyle has gone. He was my only child and a lovely lad.

"He would do anything for anyone, was selfless and had a beautiful character. And he was full of life and loved by his family and friends."

Sadly, Kyle also suffered with severe anxiety and agoraphobia and drank alcohol to give him the courage to go outside, answer his phone or front door or just to go to the shop.

"His choice of drink was white cider - Frosty Jacks and White Lightning are a couple of the brands he drank. It only costs £4.50 for a three-litre bottle and it's 7.5% proof, while other beers such as lager, are not as strong but cost around £3 for a single can containing less than half a litre.

"As a result the people drawn to this cheap strong cider are often people on a low income or benefits.

"I want the price of this white cider to be increased so the people who are easily addicted would have to choose a less-potent alternative."

Happier times... tragic Kyle with mum Joanne.

Kyle had been drinking since he was about 16 and had mental health issues.

Joanne said: "Before he was 18 I could get him help but after he became an adult he had to ask for help himself. He said he would but then wouldn't answer his phone or turn up for meetings.

Major issue

"His partner did manage to get him into a hospital in Cardiff for a time which helped for a while, but when he came back home he started drinking again. He would try different drinks but would always go back to the white cider.

"In Skelmersdale there is a lot of unemployment and many people drink white cider. I know others who have died from it."

Joanne has already collected more than 500 signatures but needs 10,000 for it to be heard in Parliament.

Rosie Cooper said: "Each death as a result of alcohol is deeply upsetting and avoidable. The Government must do more to address this major issue.

"I agree that being able to purchase three litres of 7.5% proof cider for under £5 is not acceptable and should be stopped immediately. That's why I have supported an Early Day Motion calling on the Government to follow-up its drugs strategy by publishing a comprehensive alcohol strategy that includes a minimum unit pricing policy which will save lives and relieve pressure on the NHS.

"I will be raising this issue with the ministers in Parliament, including those responsible for health and business, to encourage this policy to be introduced as a matter of urgency. The Government needs to act now. Every day wasted means more lives lost unnecessarily.

"A further Early Day Motion in Parliament has called on the Government to bring forward a comprehensive alcohol strategy in the near future, including necessary investment in better education and support services, and to include a commitment that minimum unit pricing will be reviewed and consulted on as a policy when Public Health England reports on its scientific review into the impact following its recent introduction in Scotland."

Joanne's petition can be found on the website www.change.org.

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Parish council seeks to allay farmers' fears over Local Plan review

Report by **Kenny Parker**

BICKERSTAFFE Parish Council has sought to calm fears that tenant farmers are going to be turfed off their properties due to landlords selling their land for development.

The parish council distributed a survey for local residents asking for their opinions on Green Belt land that landlords have offered up for development as part of the borough-wide Local Plan review.

But although the survey has prompted concern among some residents and farmers, the parish council has emphasised they are just proposals.

The borough council's lead on planning has also said the proposals are a landlords' "wish list" and said many factors need to be taken into consideration.

The offerings of land were made to West Lancs Council as part of the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) and will be considered during the Local Plan review this autumn.

A map of the plots offered shows that a number of farms will be affected and a tenant farmer contacted the Champion to say that the newsletter informing them of the survey was the first they had heard of the plans.

The farmer said the land is quality agricultural land that has been farmed for generations, adding that they are now in fear for their livelihood.

She said: "Why would you want to put farmers out of business to build houses and employment parks on them? Farmers farm hundreds of acres around here where is all that food going to come from when they aren't farming in the area?"

Bickerstaffe resident Jayne Heeney also contacted us to express her concerns. She said: "I feel very strongly about this, particularly when I studied the map to find large strips of land proposed for building development to include large expanses of land earmarked in the Barrow Nook area of Bickerstaffe and at land near to Bickerstaffe waterworks."

Jackie Smith, clerk of Bickerstaffe Parish Council, said: "These are only proposals at the moment and the borough council will consider which sites to include in the Local Plan Review and will seek the views of the public in the autumn on their selected 'Preferred Options'. The parish council considers it to be very important that residents' views are taken into account and seeks to co-ordinate a response."

Factors

Councillor John Hodson, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for planning and chair of the Local Plan cabinet working group, said: "In regard to the SHELAA, it always stirs rumours as to what is going to take place but it should be understood that this is basically a 'wish list' for land owners. It is an indication of all the land which they have submitted for consideration to be included in the new Local Plan for all types of development and/or designations.

"It does not mean that it will automatically be included for such as there are many factors to be taken into consideration."

A statement from landlord Stanley Estates, read: "There is a national housing crisis in the country and all local authorities are tasked by central Government with reviewing their development sites within their existing allocation and addressing any shortfall by looking at potential greenbelt release.

"The Local Plan review is being led by the council and there will be a further public consultation in the autumn to work towards their preferred options stage. The estate will be working with the farming community, estate tenants and the local community to support a sustainable and vibrant future for the area."

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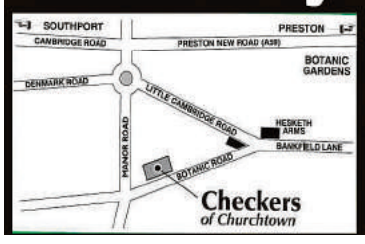

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School Multi-Use Games Area recommended for approval despite residents' concerns

Report by **Henry James**

PLANS for a Multi-Use Games Area at Elm Tree Community Primary School, Elmers Wood Road, Skelmersdale are being recommended for approval by council officers, despite residents' concerns about parking.

The proposals will be discussed at West Lancs Council's planning committee meeting tomorrow (Thursday).

The games area, measuring 40m by 60m and surrounded by fencing on all sides, would be constructed on the existing school field and would be used by pupils of the school.

Former councillor Bob Pendleton had asked for the application to be referred to committee to consider loss of amenity, impact on parking and floodlighting.

The borough council has received representations from residents worried that current parking and traffic issues near to the school could be made worse.

They also raised concerns about potential noise problem and the level of use particularly from users outside the school, while some felt the area would be dominated by concrete buildings and surfaces.

However the county council's highways department has said that providing the use is restricted to pupils only, as indicated by the applicant and the opening times (9am to 5pm) it did not consider this would attract additional parking.

Elm Tree Community Primary School

The environmental health officer, writing in the planning documents for the application, states: "I would have no objection to the MUGA in this location for the school's use for school hours and the typical 'after-school' hours, so the proposed hours of 0900 to 1700 are acceptable.

"There would be noises created that are different from an ordinary playing field such as impact sounds from balls hitting the goal board, perimeter boards and catch fencing, but restricted to school use and school time they would not be intensive or in the evening or weekends. The sports played will vary and will not all involve balls. The application states that they propose to use rebound fencing that is quieter than other types of fencing."

The officer is recommending that a condition restricting the hours of use is attached to any planning permission.

The school field is not usable at certain times of the year due to drainage issues. Proposed surfacing and drainage are being set up to enable the playing area to be used at all times during the year.

John Harrison, the director of development and regeneration at the borough council has looked at the design/layout of the application and states: "Whilst the proposed fencing and hard surfacing would be visible from public vantage points it is my view that the impact on the character and appearance of the area would not be harmful."

Mr Harrison also consulted with the highway authority "who have confirmed that the development would have a negligible impact on highway safety and highway capacity within the immediate vicinity of the site."

Couple set to celebrate 78th wedding anniversary!

A SKELMERSDALE couple are set to celebrate an amazing 78 years of wedded bliss on Friday, September 7.

Sylvia, 99, and 97-year-old Ron Woodthorpe from Birch Green will mark their landmark occasion with a quiet gathering with family.

Ron and Sylvia Woodthorpe who will celebrate their 78th wedding anniversary on Friday.

Special

The couple tied the knot in 1940 just eight days before the Battle of Britain started and Ron, who was serving in the RAF during the war , had to get special leave for the wedding.

Sylvia said: "We married at the register office at 11am but by 7pm he was recalled and I didn't see him again for years!

"We did have a bit of a knees-up for our 75th anniversary but this year will be celebrating the occasion quietly at home.

"Ron is slightly younger than me so I call him my toy boy."

And their secret for a long and happy marriage? "We love each other dearly and have never wanted anybody else."

McDonald's at Concourse looking to recruit more staff after £1m refurb

THE McDonald's at the Concourse Centre in Skelmersdale has undergone a £1m refurbishment including extension and remodelling work.

The restaurant, which has signed a 10-year extension to its lease, now aims to recruit a further 20 members of staff to cope with increased demand, with the possibility of another 30 roles being created by December.

Franchisee Craig Renilson, who operates four McDonald's restaurants in the area, said: "We have been delighted by the number of customers visiting following our significant refurbishment. We knew there was always going to be an upsurge in interest but the numbers at Skelmersdale exceeded our forecast."

Gary Mitchell, centre manager at the Concourse, added: "It's great to see McDonald's confirming its commitment to the centre by investing a significant sum in improvements."

The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancs, Councillor Gaynar Owen (2nd left) and Bernie Green pictured at the celebrations with Ex-Services Association officials David Knowles and Jim Oats and Wardens Club chairman Les Marsh.

Civic duo join Ex-Services Association celebrations

MEMBERS of the Skelmersdale Ex-Services Association played host to a couple of civic guests when they held a 1940s themed night to mark their 30th anniversary. Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancs, Councillor Gaynar Owen and Bernie Green joined the celebrations at The Wardens Club in Ormskirk Road on Saturday, August 25.

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‘Town should do more to preserve Tawd valley’

Report by **Henry James**

Council says masterplan will transform park but volunteers are always welcome to join clean-ups

THERE have been renewed calls for West Lancs Council and local residents to take better care of Skelmersdale’s Tawd Valley Park.

The Champion recently reported the views of a man who regularly fishes in the park near Half Mile Island who claimed that litter louts were ruining the beauty spot.

Now another resident has contacted us calling on the borough council to work with supermarkets in the town to implement a deposits scheme on shopping trolleys believing this would help to stop them being dumped in the Tawd.

He said that at the end of last year he had fished 15 trolleys out of the Tawd by Yewdale and the same number by the Mile Island underpass.

The man, who preferred not to be named, said: “It is not worth regenerating the area if people are going to treat it like this. Spending money on the park will be pointless if it’s just going to be wrecked again.

“West Lancashire Council should do much more and take control. They could encourage supermarkets to have deposit systems on their trolleys and punish people who leave trolleys in the Tawd.

“The council could also give incentives in a bid to get more volunteers.”

He also called for local people to have more pride in the park starting with not dumping litter there.

“The amount of rubbish that is left in the tawd valley is unbelievable, it’s a disgrace. I have even seen a headboard from a bed that had been fly-tipped.

A discarded shopping trolley in the River Tawd.

“This litter is also killing the wildlife and there are dead fish in the Tawd. The problem seems to be worse nearer to the Concourse.

“Teachers could also help by telling children not to throw rubbish into the river. It’s an area of natural beauty and I have seen deer there in the past.”

Discussions

A spokesman for West Lancs Council said: “The council organises a number of scheduled clean-ups throughout the year where items such as trolleys are removed from the river.

“In addition, the council's Parks and Countryside Ranger Service also works with volunteer groups to do clean-up sessions. Through a combination of these events more than 160 bags of rubbish and over 30 trolleys were collected from Tawd Valley Park in 2017.

“The new Friends of Tawd Valley Park Group will also be working with the Rangers to organise further clean-ups in the country park.

“The council is still in discussions with local supermarkets about what can be done to try and ensure that trolleys are not abandoned.

“The council would also ask people to respect the park and be considerate of others who use it by not leaving trolleys and other rubbish.

“If any residents, clubs or businesses want to help with clean-ups or any other projects in council they can contact the council Rangers on 01695 622794 or by email at beacon.park@westlancs.gov.uk.

“The council is working with partners on an exciting scheme to make the Tawd Valley Park an even better place for people to enjoy.

“The ambitious masterplan includes new cycle paths; new wetland habitat areas; improvements to the amphitheatre to create an informal event space; creation of a heritage trail; new picnic spaces close to the town centre; access and improvement work to footpaths and landscapes; and plans to celebrate the history of the park and Skelmersdale.”

The section of the road in Inskip where the graffiti was drawn to highlight the potholes.

Residents’ risque ruse to ‘draw’ attention to street’s pothole problem!

RESIDENTS employed a novel tactic to ‘draw’ attention to the problem of potholes in one part of Skelmersdale by painting the outline of male reproductive organs around them along with the words ‘fix me’ in the middle of the road!

The ‘artwork’ appeared in Inskip, Birch Green and one resident, who did not want to be named, told the Champion: “The pictures are spray painted around the potholes that the county council have neglected. They don’t fix the potholes just spray the graffiti black - but it keeps appearing.”

A spokesperson for Lancashire County Council said: “The offensive graffiti on this road has been removed. The road had already been identified as requiring treatment and resurfacing work is scheduled for the middle of September.”

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Families urged to talk about organ donation

'Words Save Lives' is the message of NHS Blood and Transplant donor recruitment campaign

FAMILIES in Lancashire are being urged to talk during Organ Donation Week (September 3 to 9) as new figures show 65 people in the county have died waiting for a transplant in the last five years.

Tragically, despite the fact more and more people are supporting donating their loved one's organs, there is still an urgent need for more people to support donation.

NHS Blood and Transplant is now urging more people in Lancashire to tell their families that they want to save lives through organ donation.

Last year, 134 people in Lancashire had their lives saved by a transplant. If more people agreed to donate, more lives would be saved in Lancashire and around the country.

And although the number of donors is increasing and waiting lists are reducing, right now there are around 6,000 people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant across the UK.

During Organ Donation Week, the NHS is urging families to talk about donation with the message 'Words Save Lives'.

The new pink NHS Blood and Transplant organ donor card.

Shocking

Councils and organisations around the country are lighting prominent buildings pink, the colour of the modern donor card, in support of the country's organ donation campaign.

Anthony Clarkson, Interim Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation for NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "It's tragic that so many people from Lancashire have died waiting for a transplant - what is shocking is that many of those lives could have been saved, had more families agreed to donate organs.

"People are dying every day because some families are not talking about donation. We need more families in Lancashire to say yes to organ donation, so that more lives can be saved."

He added: "We all know that organ donation legislation will change to a deemed consent system in England and Scotland in future years but the harsh fact is people are dying right now waiting for an organ and it will still be important for people to know your decision.

"We don't want people to die because of a fatal complacency that because you know you want to be an organ donor you presume your loved ones know it too.

"Please, let your family know your decision and ask them if they want to be donors. Don't leave your family guessing what you would have wanted to happen.

"We know that many families feel enormous pride and comfort at knowing that their relative went on to save lives through the gift of organ donation."

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Second War Horse Walk to mark centenary of end of First World War

FOLLOWING the successful relaunch of the War Horse Walking route in May a second walk has been organised to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

West Lancs Council is working with Lathom Park Chapel, Lathom Park Trust and the Aughton & Ormskirk U3A group to organise a free guided walk of the route on Saturday (September 8) starting at 10am from Ormskirk railway station car park.

Along the way local historians from Lathom Park Trust and Lathom Park Chapel will tell the story of the war horses and the contribution they made.

The walk will also be assisted by members of the council's Parks and Countryside Ranger Service.

The route will mostly follow that taken by horses that had been brought from all over the world to Ormskirk station via Liverpool docks.

They were then walked through the streets of Ormskirk to Lathom and the remount depot at Lathom Park. Subsequently a railway was built to transport horses directly from the docks to the depot.

Lathom Park Chapel

On the day of the guided walk there are two options as follows:

1. Take the guided walk from Ormskirk to Lathom Park Chapel where refreshments will be enjoyed returning via the outward route. Distance approximately 5.5 miles.

2. Take the guided walk from Ormskirk to Lathom Park Chapel and stop for refreshments before continuing by one of several routes e.g., through Lathom and Ruff Wood before returning to Ormskirk. Distance about six to eight miles.

The council has also re-produced a leaflet which will allow walkers to choose and follow a route themselves. Copies are available from the council offices; CSP at the Concourse shopping centre, Skelmersdale; Ormskirk library and Southport Eco Centre. It is also available to download at www.DiscoverOrmskirk.com.

Although there is no need to book before the day it would be helpful for organisers to know numbers and people are asked to contact the council on 01695 712645 between 9am and 5pm if you are interested.

Walkers should arrive 15 minutes before departure time, wear suitable footwear and clothing. Children under the age of 16 should be accompanied by an adult.

Car parking is available at Ormskirk station but walkers are requested to use public transport where possible. Help for planning your journey is available at http://traveline.info.

Family firm takes on two apprentices from Skelmersdale

A FAMILY business has taken on two new apprentices from Skelmersdale to work in the West Lancashire area.

Multi-trade apprentices Joseph Power, 26, and Shane Ribbens, 18, are part of a new intake of 12 apprentices employed by the Wigan-based contractor A. Connolly Ltd. in partnership with Procure Plus.

Previously Joseph was working in a factory but he was keen to find an apprenticeship and was directed to the company by the Job Centre.

He said: "It is useful to have a trade behind you and I am more of a practical learner than I am a paper person. I am really enjoying it and I can't wait to get started at college."

Joseph and Shane will be working on internal refurbishment schemes for West Lancs Council and attending Wigan and Leigh College from this month.

Skem company's high-tech system helps international catering supplier expand

AN international supplier of rented catering equipment is extending its use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tracking to its Far East and Gulf operations with the help of a Skelmersdale-based tech company.

Since installing the system from CoreRFID of White Moss Businness Park two years ago at its headquarters in Northern Ireland and its operations in England, Scotland and Germany, Lowe Rental has saved weeks of staff time and achieved an almost 100% accuracy rate.

Lowe rents out more than 20,000 items worldwide, including fridges, freezers, catering equipment and temporary kitchens, and supplies high-profile events from Royal Ascot to the Singapore Grand Prix, the world's largest food and beverage exhibitions and some of the biggest retail stores worldwide.

Previously each item entering or leaving the warehouse was identified by a six-digit code, which had to be manually recorded by staff using a paper-based system. Now the codes have been replaced by RFID tags, which are detected automatically by RFID readers at the exits and the information downloaded to the database.

The new system enables instantaneous reporting and has virtually eradicated human error. Audits which took a week under the old manual system can now be completed in under half a day, using a mobile phone reader app which can monitor the tags from up to 2m away.

Lowe is now working with CoreRFID to extend the system to its warehouses in Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai and Dubai.

European operations director Ian Lowry commented: "CoreRFID's system has transformed our operation. By automating the whole tracking process, it has allowed us to save time and achieve near perfect accuracy levels. The solution works well in tandem with our existing systems.

"It's a natural progression to roll out the system to our Asian operations where I'm sure it will have the same massive positive impact it has had in Europe."

Munzi Ali, technical director of CoreRFID, commented: "With over 20,000 items which are constantly on the move, Lowe's operations rely on a fast and accurate tracking system. RFID technology fits the bill perfectly and offers huge potential to improve efficiency. The technology is also quick and easy to install and offers rapid return on investment."

CoreRFID develops and supplies RFID solutions for IT asset management, equipment tracking, health and safety and production management purposes.

Since forming in 2007, it has built a diverse global client base of more than a 1,000 companies globally including London Underground, ICL and BAE Systems.

Members of the triumphant Skem Men-Aces team with manager Carl Eaton

More trophy success for Men-Aces

THE town's all-conquering disability football team, the Skem Men-Aces, have added another trophy to their ever-growing collection.

This time the lads crossed the Pennines to Doncaster where they fielded two sides in a 56-team tournament played near the Keepmoat Stadium.

Carl and Mim Eaton from the Men-Aces said: "The weather was appalling with torrents of rain but nothing seems to dampen the Men-Aces' style and they really enjoy playing the beautiful game so with more silverware up for grabs, it was game on."

In the two grading games the two Men-Aces teams kept the ball low and to feet.

Carl and Mim added: "This allowed us to conserve energy while other teams were playing high balls into the wind.

"The conditions on the day were a test of determination and ball control but our build-up play led to some good goals.

"After the grading games both our teams were moved up a few levels and the standard of play was unbelievable given the conditions and applauded by the shivering crowd that braved the elements.

"But as the wintry blast cut through the field it was the Men-Aces who came out on top.

"The hunger and passion both teams showed was a true testament to the club and all the hard work they have put in this season."

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Bobby-Dazzlers!

Young gymnasts shine on international bow

Report by **Kenny Parker**

The young Dazzlers with their medals.

A TEAM of talented young gymnasts from West Lancashire have surpassed all expectations by returning from their first overseas competition with a hoard of medals.

Due to limited resources, Dazzlers Gymnastics Club - which meets at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College, Skelmersdale, and Burscough Sports Centre - had to overcome the odds to win a place at the Independent Association of Independent Gymnastics Clubs World Championships in Orlando, Florida.

And after securing their place, head coach Shelly Murphy said medals were not a priority and she just wanted her young charges to enjoy the experience,

But they did her - and themselves - proud by securing top spots in various rounds and being well placed in others.

The competition was organised over seven levels and according to age.

Among the list of impressive achievements of the Dazzlers were Lois Bowness, 13, who won gold for her age category at Level 3 in beam; Georgina Barklem, also 13, who won gold for her age category at Level 2 in floor; and eight-year-old Isla Sharrock, who won gold in the 7 to 9-year-olds tumble competition.

And clubmates Sophie Holmes, 10 and 12-year-olds Ava Clarke and Bethany Rimmer also shone, taking first, second and third place respectively in the 10 years and over age category for tumble.

Shelly said: "I am amazingly proud of my Dazzlers. We were the smallest club from the UK that entered the IAIGC World Championship.

"Even though the medals are fantastic, it wasn't something that was the priority at this big competition - but wow we did bring some home! Our Dazzler gymnasts did us proud."

To take part each of the children had to obtain a qualifying score at IAIGC competitions against rivals from big clubs with fully-kitted gym centres, while the Dazzlers train on mats and an old-style box, and only get one hour on the full-size beam and bars during their weekly session at Burscough.

Fundraising events were held to cover the cost of the trip with a local care home and businesses helping out, while Sophie Holmes' father Ste was sponsored to do 4,251 burpees - the equivalent in miles to Orlando - in 24 hours.

Shelly added: "We are incredibly grateful for all the help from family and friends; Birch Green Care Home in Skelmersdale; Fun Factor, Maghull; Bobbie Goulding Fitness and Training; Ste Holmes and everyone who donated at our bag-packing at Tesco in Burscough.

"The money raised covered the cost of entry and insurance, kit to make them look the part and all the extras to make them feel special, leaving the families to pay for flights and accommodation."

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Information evening for potential adopters

County council seeking permanent loving homes for youngsters unable to live with birth family

LANCASHIRE County Council is holding another of its information evenings for people thinking about starting or growing their family through adoption.

This will be held on Tuesday, September 11 at County Hall, Preston, from 6 to 7.30pm.

Following a short presentation, members of the authority's adoption team, including social workers, will be available to answer questions, talk people through the process and offer confidential advice.

County Councillor Susie Charles, cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We need people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"You must be over 21 and live in Lancashire or close by, but whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status, we want to hear from you.

"What matters are your personal qualities and that you are able to provide a loving home where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond."

County Councillor Susie Charles

Adoptive parents are needed for children from young babies up to eight years of age while there is particular need for people willing to keep families together by adopting siblings. Brothers and sisters are among the children who wait longest to be adopted as there are not enough people coming forward who are able to give them a safe, permanent and loving family.

Among the 91 Lancashire children currently ready to be adopted, there are 12 two-sibling groups and three three-sibling groups.

Councillor Charles added: "I'm hoping that we can encourage people to at least think about adopting two or more children.

"We keep brothers and sisters together whenever we can. For children who cannot be brought up by their own parents, those sibling relationships take on extra importance.

"In the midst of the trauma and losses these children experience, being placed with a brother or sister can be an important source of comfort and support, and give them the opportunity to grow up together.

"However, we know that adopting siblings might not be for everyone and we still need adopters to come forward to look after children of all different ages and circumstances."

There's no need to book for the adoption information evening, you can just turn up. Free parking is available on the Arthur Street car park, next to County Hall, and the Pitt Street entrance is accessible for disabled people.

Further details about the evening and adoption in general are available online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or by calling the adoption team on 0300 123 6723.

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Tom aims to spin his way to career in county cricket

Report by **Henry James**

A YOUNG member of Ormskirk cricket club has got his sights set on making the grade in the first class game after turning in some impressive performances in the Lancashire set-up this season.

Left arm spin bowler Tom Hartley has been playing for the Red Rose side's second team this summer and is hoping to break into the first team soon.

The 19-year-old from Lydiate has secured a regular spot in the county's second XI, playing five or six days a week over the last few months and helping the team get to the T20 Cup final.

Tom Hartley in action

Experience

And sporting prowess clearly runs in the family - although with the emphasis on speed rather than spin, as dad Bill represented England in athletics, winning a silver medal in the 400 metre hurdles at the Commonwealth Games and gold in the relay at the European Games.

Tom started playing cricket at Merchant Taylors' School in Crosby, and after finishing school, deferred his place at Leeds University to take a year out to play cricket in Melbourne, Australia.

He said: "It has been a good, but surreal experience to play for Lancashire 2nd XI with some of the greats of the game in the Lancashire second team, such as Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

"While I have played for the county, I have learnt how important awareness is.

"It has been good fun, I have enjoyed it and it has brought my game to a whole new level. There are long days in the field but if you win it is worthwhile."

Tom's best figures for Lancashire were in the T20 final against Essex at Arundel in Sussex when he took three wickets for 12 runs off his two overs. Lancs were defending 66 runs and went onto win.

As for his ambitions in the sport, he said he would like to establish himself in the Lancashire first team and win the National Cup final with Ormskirk.

"We reached the final last year, so we would like to go one better this year."

Proud dad Bill said: "Tom is doing well and has had an interesting experience so far and had a good summer of cricket."

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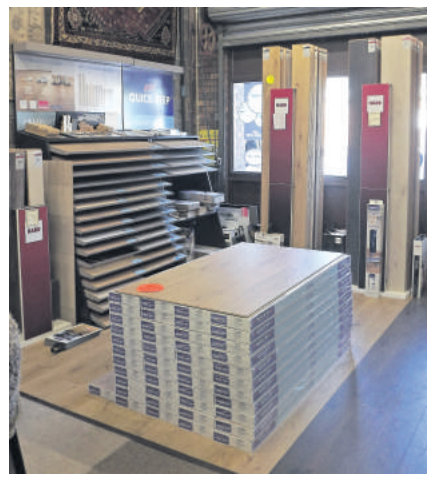

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Speed limit on *that* stretch of County Road should be 30mph - maximum!

RE: The Hayfield Road/County Road/Green Lane junction in Ormskirk.

Whilst generally agreeing with Mr Pagett's letter (Champion, August 29) regarding full facts of accidents on County Road in Ormskirk, I was left a little puzzled as to whether he was for or against reducing the speed limit on County Road.

His example of an under 30mph accident, resulting in devastating and life-threatening injuries, made me think he would be in favour. After all, anything faster could have resulted in a fatality.

In March 2015, on a dark, rainy morning, I was stationary at the Hayfield Road junction with County Road/Green Lane, intending to turn right.

I set off on green and, just as I got to the main road, an articulated lorry came from my right, through a red light.

He hit my offside front wing.

If I'd travelled another meter, he would have hit the driver's door - and me!

Thankfully, I was left with just aches and pains, mainly from the seat belt, but my car was written off.

The driver was foreign. The cab had a Polish registration plate and the trailer a French one.

The police told me he was doing 30mph and didn't see the red light because he was looking at his sat-nav, not knowing where he was. They cautioned him.

As Mr Pagett points out, there are numerous permutations regarding the causes of such accidents. However, I know what speed limit I'd prefer on that stretch of County Road - 30mph maximum.

Mr A. Prescott, Scarisbrick.

New parking meters are another 'own goal' for decision-makers

ONCE again the council have surpassed themselves by ensuring that those using the new parking meters have to type in their registration number into the machine to get a ticket.

You therefore have to stoop down to use a keypad in which the numbers are small and difficult to manage.

No doubt this is to ensure that tickets are not passed around when someone leaves the car park and has some free time left.

It would be great if whoever made this decision to install this income generator to go and see the impact this has on a number of visitors, predominantly elderly, who have difficulty navigating this.

I was in a queue of seven people trying to get the tickets and I ended up assisting three people use the meter.

All passed comment how stupid this was, and a couple of ladies were embarrassed and will be reluctant to return.

Another own goal for our decision makers who feel that providing a parking meter that is a challenge to use for some visitors that offers no change is the way forward.

Ormskirk resident, details supplied.

PICTURE of the week

Brian Dobson, of Hesketh Bank Allotments and Leisure Gardeners, with some of his home grown produce which featured in last Saturday's summer show at their Shore Road site. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Cyclists can be rude and careless too!

IN reference to Brian Sprague's letter regarding motorists becoming better drivers (Champion, August 29) perhaps cyclists could try a walk now and then and see how careless and rude cyclists can be at times.

None seem to use a bell - obviously not cool on their dream machines - and they expect pedestrians to move without asking, or actually whistle at someone to shift!

My four-year-old granddaughter was nearly taken out by two cyclists riding dangerously fast and they didn't even stop to apologise or check she was all right. This on a country lane without pavements.

I know there are careless drivers but please don't think all cyclists are wonderful.

They're not. Especially those out on a Sunday morning, shouting at one another as they whizz along.

And don't get me started on those ignoring the perfectly suitable cycle path on the Coastal Road, choosing instead to ride on the road causing obstruction and creating potentially hazardous situations.

Rant over - for now.

Holmeswood walker,
by email (details supplied).

It's good to know there are some really nice people out there

I WOULD just like to thank the lovely, kind ladies who helped me with my shopping at B&M Burscough recently.

The first lady gave me her trolley as she could see I was struggling from the car and said she had recently been on crutches herself.

The second lady packed my shopping and put it in my car, ensuring my handbag and purse were safe, then took my trolley back for me.

It really meant so much to me as I was struggling and in so much pain with my torn knee cartilage.

Thanks so very much ladies. There really are some lovely kind people out there.

Jan Dean, Scarisbrick.

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Council decision to allow pets crematorium in Aughton is unbelievable

I CANNOT believe that West Lancs Borough Council could impose a pets crematorium on the highest ratepayers in the county at Winifred Lane, Aughton.

This will be built on Green Belt land and in a conservation area.

It's a complete change of use from stables to an industrial complex. The fuel tank is a 1,500 litres of diesel for burning dead animals and in use from 8am until 5.30pm Monday to Friday and Saturday from 8am to 1pm.

Can you imagine the toxins in the air? Also there are two primary schools within close proximity.

Only three residents have agreed to this and half the population of Aughton are in opposition. Is this what is now called democracy?

We need to put a lid on this by calling in DEFRA (the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) and the government inspectors.

There are two pet crematoriums within half-an-hour of Aughton, why do we need another one?

Jim Burgess, by email.

Head shave for cancer charity

ON Saturday, September 8 we are having a 'Brave the Shave' charity fundraising night in the Tawd Vale Inn, Berry Street, Skelmersdale with all money raised going to the Macmillan Nurses charity.

There will be a raffle on the night to help boost funds and we would like as much support as possible. Public response to date has been overwhelming.

There will be three head shaves on the night and any help will be much appreciated.

John Medlicott,
by email.

Country owes our Merchant Navy seafarers much better treatment

RE: 'Council to fly Red Ensign on Merchant Navy Day (Champion, August 29) the people of the UK, in Cllr. Delaney's words, do owe a debt of gratitude to seafarers and the work that they do.

Yet Britain has fought hard in Europe against reforming their pay and conditions. Of the EU nations, Britain protects its own sailors least from unfair, undercutting competition, and is issuing the most 'certificates of equivalent competency' to foreign mariners so they can work on its ships.

If the council did fly the Merchant Navy flag on September 3 then half-mast would seem appropriate.

David Pryer, Parbold.

Oddfellows' invitation to join in Great Big Friendship Month

ORMSKIRK & Southport Oddfellows are looking to make some new friends as they invite people to join them for a carvery lunch during Great Big Friendship Month.

The local friendship society is holding their usual Coffee Club at the at The Bay Horse in Church Road, Formby from 10.30am to midday on Tuesday, September 11 with lunch to follow.

The event is one of hundreds running up and down the country during September as part of the Oddfellows' annual celebration of friendship.

Now in its ninth year, the national awareness month aims to provide easy ways for people of all ages to come together, have fun as a community, and to form lasting friendships.

Judith Catton, events organiser and welfare co-ordinator for the Ormskirk & Southport group, said: "Having a strong circle of friends around you is really important - not only for your mental health but it's been proven to boost physical health, too.

Opportunity

"Making and maintaining new friends in later life doesn't come as easy as it did in the school yard, so as a group we meet regularly so we can stay in touch with others and share some laughs, as well as look out for each other.

"We'd love to welcome some new faces to our group. If you'd like to come along and give us a try, then this is a perfect opportunity. Let us know you are coming and we will meet you at the door.

"Our Great Big Friendship Month gets bigger and better each year. It's always fantastic to see new people come along and enjoy our events and to leave having made friends."

According to research more than nine million people of all ages in the UK say they are lonely either often or always.

The Oddfellows, established in 1810, is one of the largest and oldest friendly societies in the UK, and they believes that friendship is the answer, helping people lead happier and healthier lives with the support of friends around them.

For more details of Ormskirk & Southport group's regular events and activities contact Judith Catton on 01704 545279 or email judith.catton@oddfellows.co.uk.

Members of Ormskirk & Southport Oddfellows who enjoyed a trip to Haydock Park races earlier this summer.

John McCormick proudly displays his medal after completing the West Lancashire Summer Triathlon in aid of Prostate Cancer UK.

Rotary club president, 67, tackles triathlon in aid of cancer charity

Report by **Kenny Parker**

ACCOUNTANT John McCormick was left counting his aches and pains - as well as a four-figure sponsorship total - after completing a gruelling triathlon at the grand age of 67 in aid of a charity that is close to his heart.

John, president of the Rotary Club of Ormskirk and a director of Myersons Chartered Accountants, was inspired to take part in the West Lancashire Summer Triathlon after chatting to a friend's son who competes in Iron Man events.

And the plucky pensioner overcame the pain barrier to complete the 400-metre swim, followed by an 18.5 km cycle and 5k run, raising more than £1,000 for Prostate Cancer UK - a disease he survived himself following surgery.

His only regret was not doing more training in preparation for the event. John, who is a member of Park Pool gym in Ormskirk, said: "It went really well and I enjoyed the sense of achievement but my 67-year-old knees are feeling their age!"

Meanwhile he is still collecting for the charity and says any donations would be welcome. Anyone wishing to donate can send a cheque, payable to The Rotary Club of Ormskirk Trust Fund, to Myersons (Chartered Accountants), 32 Derby Street, Ormskirk.

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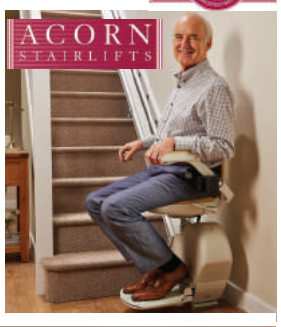

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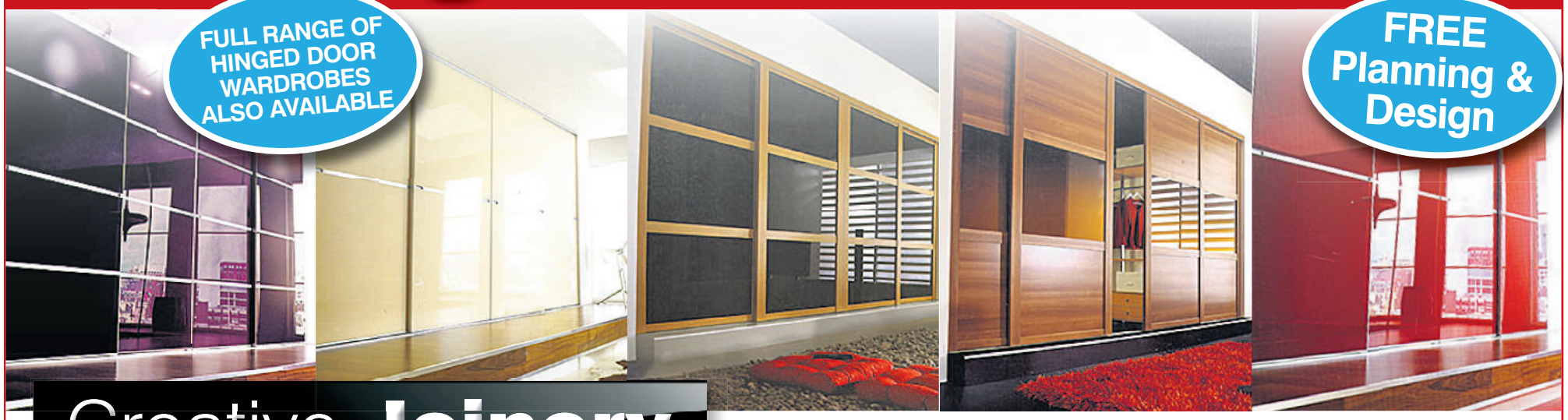

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Edge Hill will host careers 'boot camps' for recent graduates

Report by **Kenny Parker**

EDGE Hill University's careers team is aiming to help graduates on their career path with boot camp-style workshops.

Entitled 'Commandeer your career', the workshops on Thursday September 6 from 1.30 to 4.30pm and Tuesday, October 2 between 5.30 and 8.30pm, are available to all former students at the Ormskirk campus who have graduated from 2016 onwards.

New for 2018, the free half-day boot camps comprise interactive activities to help graduates progress through tough selection processes to kick-start their careers.

The sessions will include CV building, job application forms and interviews, as well as other useful hints and tips to help secure graduate roles and schemes.

Careers adviser, Debby Murray, said: "It's the time of year when graduate recruiters are on the hunt for their next intake of talent and the careers team at Edge Hill are here to help new graduates get snapped up.

"We support students from the moment they arrive at the university through to three years after graduation. Our support ranges from individual careers consultations to regular workshops helping students to secure that all important part time job or boosting employability skills through volunteering."

Edge Hill University is providing recent graduates with careers guidance.

Edge Hill's success in employability is demonstrated by 96.6 per cent of its full-time first degree graduates finding work or further study within six months of graduating and the university has a top 10 shortlisting in TARGET job's National Graduate Recruitment Awards.

Opportunities to put the skills learned at the boot camps into action will be available at the university's annual recruitment fair, organised by the employer liaison team, featuring approximately 50 organisations with careers available across a range of subject areas.

This year's event takes place on Tuesday, October 16 and is open to graduates as well as current students.

For further details or to book a place go to the events section of the website: https://careerhub.edgehill.ac.uk/students/events.

The boot camps are only available to Edge Hill University graduates.

Author and Tudor expert to give Lathom Park lecture

AUTHOR Nathen Amin will be guest lecturer at Lathom Park Chapel on Friday, September 7.

Born in Wales, Nathen has long had an interest in Welsh history and the Welsh origins of the Tudors. He has also appeared on several TV history programmes as an authority on both the Wars of The Roses and the Tudors.

Tickets for the lecture, starting at 7.30pm, are still available priced £10 including refreshments and entry into a free draw for a signed copy of his book. Proceeds from the event will be shared between the Lathom Park Trust charity and Lathom Park Chapel.

For tickets call 07399061408 or email info@lathomparktrust.org.uk.

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Care trust's award for employment support to former armed forces staff

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Foundation Trust has been recognised for its commitment to supporting former armed forces personnel into employment.

The trust's recruitment team have been selected for the Ministry of Defence's Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award 2018 for their pledge to supporting the defence and armed forces community.

The team have been recognised as an armed forces employer.

Having already received bronze recognition for their commitment almost two years ago they have now signed the armed forces covenant demonstrating that service personnel are given equal opportunities during the recruitment and selection process.

A spokesman for the trust said: "We are so pleased to have received the Ministry of Defence's Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award. As a trust we are committed to supporting people who have served in the armed forces by providing fair opportunities in to recruitment.

"The NHS has a wide variety of employment opportunities and we offer our full support to service leavers, veterans, reservist and cadets who are looking for employment in healthcare.

"We absolutely recognise and value the transferable skills, experiences and commitment of the people that have served in the armed forces and believe that these attributes support our own values within our own organisation."

The team will receive the award at the North West Reserve Forces and Cadet Association awards evening in November.

Bookings being taken for festive fundraiser in aid of borough mayor's charities

BOOKINGS are now being taken for a three-course traditional Christmas dinner and entertainment in aid of the Mayor of West Lancashire's chosen charities.

The festive fundraiser, to be held at Ormksirk Civic Hall on Thursday, December 13, will be compered by comedian Pete Emmett and feature singer Steve Charles and singer/songwriter/actor Holly Ellison. Tickets, priced £35, are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/528901 and all proceeds will go to Skelmersdale-based Blossom's Legacy and the 37th Ormskirk (St. Anne's) Scout Group.

Blossom's Legacy, set up by the parents of four-year-old Blossom Iris Kelly who tragically died in a hotel swimming pool accident during a family holiday in Spain, raises funds to educate and encourage children to learn to swim from an early age.

The 37th Ormskirk (St. Anne's) Scout Group provides activities including camping, archery, canoeing, abseiling, craft, games and badges, for about 100 boys and girls aged from six to 14.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Sue's a Successful Slimmer Second Time Around

Sue Newsome from Ormskirk, who has shed 3st 9lb in 11 months, says: "When I started out I never dreamt I'd be able to achieve all that I have. Losing the weight has made such a big difference – it's changed my life. My health is better, I have more energy and I'm even now able to run and enjoy doing things always wanted to do. I'm much happier now – I definitely feel more comfortable in my own skin"

She joined Slimming World after becoming increasingly unhappy with her size. " I had lost over 3st with Slimming World over 20 years ago and convinced myself I could do it on my own - how wrong could I be? I gained back the 3st plus much more.

It was after my holiday last summer and seeing the photographs, which I hated, that I decided to go back. I know a lot of people worry about joining a slimming club because they don't know what to expect but right from the first moment I walked backed into my Slimming World group I felt comfortable, and the support I've received has been amazing. I look forward to going to Slimming World each week."

I love that never have to miss out and I don't have to get hung up on weighing and measuring everything I eat. My family and friends are all amazed by how much I can eat and still lose weight. I still eat many of the same meals that I did before I started losing weight, like curries and roast dinners. Now I just prepare and cook them differently – and they taste so much better. I've picked up lots of new healthy recipes from the other members at my Slimming World group, too".

Sue adds: "I feel like a different woman to the person who walked back into Slimming World I remember feeling like there was no hope when it came to my weight but I've realised that when people believe in you – and you believe in yourself – you can do anything you set your mind to I have shrunk 3 dress sizes and this year on holiday I felt fantastic!. I really hope my weight loss can inspire other people to get started on their own journey. My Consultant Tina Whewell and my fellow members at Ormskirk Rugby club have been so supportive and with me every step of the way."

Slimming World groups are held most day and evenings across West Lancashire. To find your nearest group see attached advertisiement or visit the website- www.slimmingworld.co.uk/joining-a-group

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11am & 1pm
Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

MAGHULL
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6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
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5pm & 7pm
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5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY

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Sheila: 07827 335824

OLD SKELMERSDALE
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9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

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Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

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Sefton Lane
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Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

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3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

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DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
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FRIDAY

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New Pavilion
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9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY

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Emma: 07414 223617

OLD SKELMERSDALE
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8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club
Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

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St Anne's School, Aughton Street, Ormskirk
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Sue: 07817 444580

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Glitter Boys aim to sparkle in charity dance challenge

Report by **Kenny Parker**

The Glitter Boys learning their routines ready for their dance challenge.

THIRTEEN 'brave' men will put their reputations on the line when they step out to perform a glittering dance routine for charity.

And the plucky pals are hoping to make it a sparkling occasion when they take to the stage in aid of Rainbow House in Mawdesley which supports children and young people with physical and neurological disabilities.

Lisa and Paul Maddison, whose daughter Katie attends Rainbow House, have organised a fundraising Glitter Ball for the charity at the Formby Hall Golf Resort and Spa on Saturday, September 15.

And strutting their stuff on the big night will be the Glitter Boys, made up of 12 friends ready to release their inner funkiness!

Lisa says all the men readily accepted the challenge and are aiming for a 'spectacular, once-in-a-lifetime performance.'

She said: "The boys have been rehearsing every week and have just completed their first full run-through.

"They are doing incredibly well as none of them are experienced dancers but they're really nailing their routines and looking hot!

"They are being put through their paces by my niece, Emma Lippitt, a talented and fabulous dance teacher. And I'd like to thank them for their commitment to this crazy challenge."

She continued: "All of the guys know Katie, have followed her progress over the years and know about the life-changing work the charity carries out.

"The dance will be on social media after the event so anyone who donates will get to see the Glitter Boys strut their funky stuff even if they are not at the ball."

Ben Blackman, chief executive at Rainbow House, said: "This is an amazing challenge and commitment and we can't wait to see the Glitter Boys in action. Our thanks go to Lisa and Paul Maddison for organising the event and for all their continued support for Rainbow House.

To support the Glitter Boys with a donation go to website www.justgiving.com/fundraising/theglitterboys.

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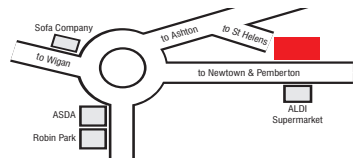

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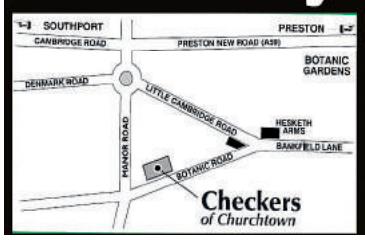

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Learn Fest at local libraries

ORMSKIRK and Tarleton libraries will take part in the first regional Libraries Connected NW Learn Fest this month.

The family-focused festival, from Monday, September 10 to Monday, September 24, will feature a programme of events, workshops and activities. It aims to bring learning to life and will offer opportunities to try something new, develop skills and to learn new things.

There's no need to book places and all the events, activities and workshops are free.

For details of what is happening at different libraries visit http://bit.ly/LearnFest2018 or call 0300 123 6703.

County council to revisit tendering process for children's health services

Authority faces £200k legal bill after High Court judge overturns decision to award contract to Virgin Care

Report by **Kenny Parker**

LANCASHIRE County Council will revisit the tendering process for public health services for 0 to 19-year-olds after its previous decision to award the services to Virgin Care was overturned by the High Court, costing the authority £200,000 in legal fees.

The council ran a procurement process between September and November of last year with Virgin Care coming out as the winning bidder chosen to deliver county-wide public health nursing services, including health visitors and school nurses, for the age group.

However, the decision was subject to a legal challenge by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust and following a High Court hearing, it was set aside by Mr Justice Stuart-Smith.

County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing.

In his findings, the judge said he did not find any fault with the tendering or scoring elements of the procurement process for the services, but did raise issues with record keeping in the final stage moderation element.

The scoring and moderation stages will now be re-run with a new independent panel, which will make the decision over who will be awarded the contract.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper welcomed the judge's decision to set aside the contract to Virgin Care and accused the county council of using "dubious" processes to award contracts and being determined to privatise county council services.

And Skelmersdale East County Councillor John Fillis, deputy leader of the Labour group, said it was the third time the Conservatives in Lancashire had been stopped from privatising public services.

Legal duty

However, the county council chiefs maintain that the authority is legally bound to offer the services to tender and that the decision was not political.

They admit though that the ruling has cost them money, after agreeing to make a payment towards the health trusts' costs for the legal challenge.

Although the total costs for the case are still being finalised, it is anticipated that the amount the county council will be required to pay will be in the region of £200k, which would be around 75% of the total costs.

County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We will now be able to move forward to finalise this procurement process and we have also agreed to pay 75% of the trusts' legal costs for this case, which will mean we do not have to go back to court.

"Where services such as the 0-19 public health services are not being delivered in house, we are under a legal duty to open them up to competition; and the decision to do so in this case was in no way political.

"The existing contract with Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust does not expire until March 2019 so the public can be reassured that there will be no disruption to these important services.

"Health visitors and school nurses all do a fantastic job and we will continue to support them in any way we can to ensure children and families continue to receive a good service."

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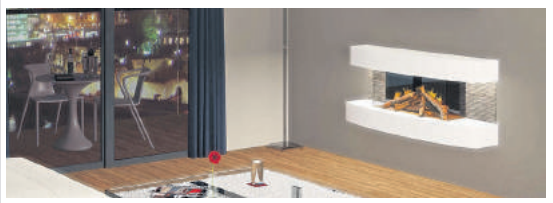

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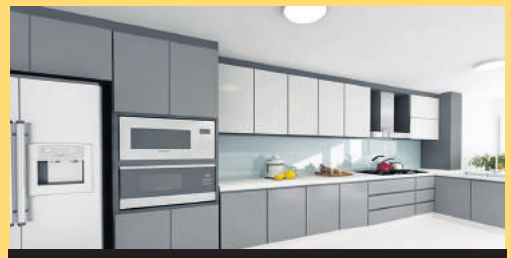

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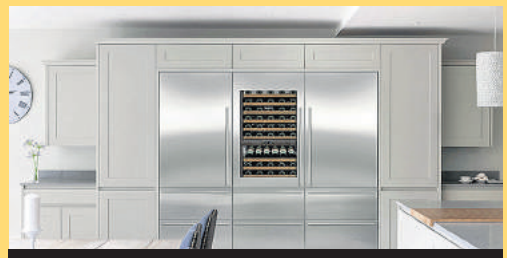

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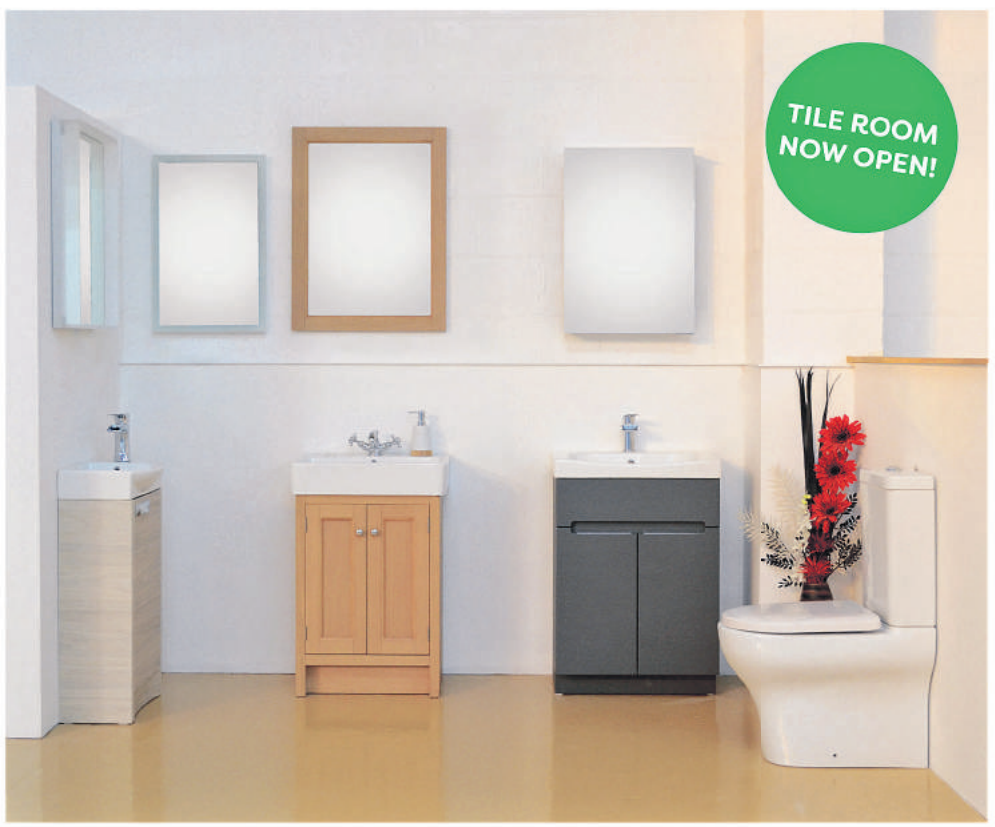

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Village celebrates fourth arts and music festival

CROWDS flocked to the fourth annual Parbold Street Festival of Arts and Music last Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2.

Over the two days residents and visitors were able to enjoy theatre, arts, street entertainers, a beer and gin festival, exhibitions, several market places and live music performances.

Taking centre stage though were the parades of dragons, celebrating the Legend of Parbold Hill, the story of the dragon dwelling under the hill!

Enter the dragon . . . villagers parade through Parbold as part of the arts and music festival.

The sounds of samba come to Parbold as this band of samba drummers help to get the festival party stated en route through the village last weekend.

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It's never too soon to join library says county council

PARENTS are being reminded that children up to the age of five can join a library, and benefit from many free services available.

Lancashire County Council says that as well as introducing children to books and a love of reading at an early age, libraries can offer lots of other activities for young children.

With free Wi-Fi available giving access to a wealth of information and the chance to play online games and stream music, there are also hundreds of children's e-books and audio books available to download for free.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "It's important to give children the chance to experience the joy of reading from an early age.

"And as well as books, most libraries now offer free storytelling or music sessions, where parents and carers can bring their pre-school children and meet with friends, and even Lego sessions for older children to get involved."

For more information, go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries.

Representatives from the Blood Bikes and Queenscourt Hospice charities receive their cheques from members of Ormskirk Park Senior Citizens Bowling Club.

Bowlers' helping hand for charities

MEMBERS of a West Lancs bowling club have donated surplus funds generated from weekly subscriptions to three charities.

Ormskirk Park Senior Citizens Bowling Club has presented £50 cheques to North West Blood Bikes, Queenscourt Hospice and Maghull-based Walking With Giants Foundation which supports people affected by dwarfism.

Club chairman, Mike Brown, said: "The charities were proposed by members and once we had nominations it was agreed that rather than choose just one we would treat all three."

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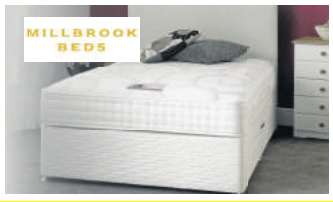

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Pub diners enjoy share of giant fishy treat

DINERS at a local pub have been tucking into a giant fishy treat by sharing in a huge halibut caught off the coast of the Shetland islands.

The fish, weighing a hefty 72kg (about 11st tone 5lbs) was delivered to seafood specialist Chris Neve, whose daughter Jocelyn Neve is founder and managing director of the Seafood Pub Company which has branches across Lancashire and Yorkshire, including the Town Green Brasserie in Aughton.

Chris filleted the halibut into 200 portions to be dispatched to the various venues of the pub chain and also held a 'Ready, Steady, Cook' contest with the fish to encourage creativity amongst the company's chefs, with the most innovative winning a selection of knives for their kitchen.

Chefs in the group, accompanied by executive chef, Mark Taft and Chris Neve, also visited Fleetwood docks, where they were shown the day's catch and attended a fish auction.

Right: Joycelyn Neve, Mark Taft and Chris Neve with the giant halibut.

New hospitality industry awards scheme launched

A NEW awards programme has been launched to recognise the 'stars' of Lancashire's hotel and hospitality industry.

The inaugural Lancashire Hospitality Awards aims to champion and reward the top performers in the county in 12 categories.

Ten finalists in each category will be interviewed by a panel of judges made up of businessmen and women from throughout the hospitality and associated industries, following which the list will be whittled down to a final five before a winner is chosen.

The awards, founded by the KC Awards Group Limited, are free to enter and the deadline for entries is Friday, October 5.

Director, Carl Darcy, said: "Lancashire has hundreds of tremendous businesses throughout the hospitality industry and the aim of the awards is to recognise all the good work they are doing.

"I'd encourage everybody to look at entering, the wide range of categories means there is something for everyone and we look forward to receiving the entries."

Fellow co-founder, Kara Rose added: "Lancashire is leading the way in its hospitality offer but there have never been any awards to recognise this effort. The new awards, judged by key leaders in the industry, will look at businesses and individuals in the hospitality sector who go above and beyond to create a first-class service for their customers, really raising awareness of this work both on a regional and national level."

Awards co-founder Carl Darcy.

Following the judging process, the awards night will take place on Friday, February 1 next year at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool.

Award categories are large hotel; small hotel; boutique hotel; spa hotel; golf resort; hotel restaurant/bar; sustainable venue; hotel conference/event; non-residential venue; wedding venue; marketing/PR campaign; and lifetime achievement.

The 10 finalists in each category will be announced on Friday, October 12.

For more information visit www.lancashirehospitalityawards.co.uk.

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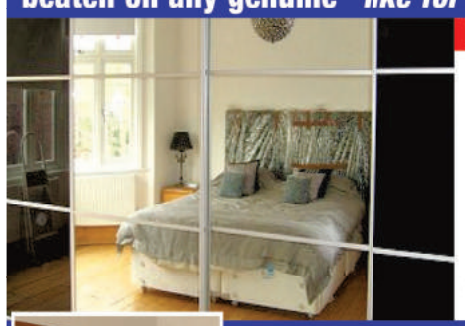

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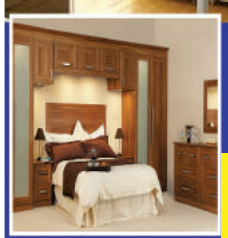

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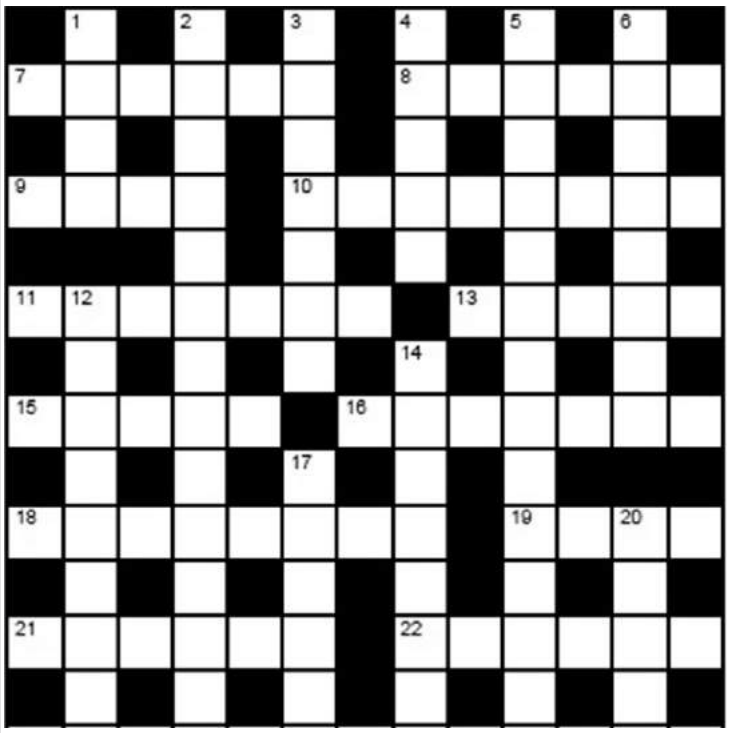

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Unmentionable. 8. Resolute. 9. Puma. 10. Prefect. 12. Prune. 14. Stale. 16. Cat's eye. 19. Biro. 20. Harmless. 22. Reception room.

Down: 1. Knee. 2. Set off. 3. Staunch. 4. Ropey. 5. Pamper. 6. Clemency. 11. Retainer. 13. Patriot. 15. Looter. 17. Salary. 18. Theta. 21. Smog.

ACROSS

7. Not very often, seldom (6)
8. Great enthusiasm or passion (6)
9. Boyfriend or male admirer (4)
10. To protect against infection or disease by inoculation (8)
11. Greenery, vegetation (7)
13. Pinkish-violet colour or shrub of the olive family (5)
15. Play a guitar by sweeping the thumb or a plectrum up or down across the strings (5)
16. Discovered the position of (7)
18. Emitting more light or having more intelligence (8)
19. Domesticated, not wild (4)
21. Person who makes a living by working the land or rearing livestock (6)
22. Place where bees are kept (6)

DOWN

1. Not genuine, counterfeit (4)
2. Football is sometimes described as this The - - (9, 4)
3. Device for injecting or withdrawing fluids (7)
4. Characterized by pleasantly warm weather (5)
5. Either of two siblings developed from a single fertilized egg and alike in all genetic characteristics and very similar in appearance (9, 4)
6. Parasol (8)
12. Sudden occurrence of something unwelcome, e.g. war or disease (8)
14. Bouncer or commissionaire (7)
17. Rear part of a ship (5)
20. Fourth planet from the Sun (4)

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The Beacon Park Golf Club seniors section team.

Golf club veterans beat local rivals to clinch seniors title

VETERAN golfers at a West Lancashire club are celebrating after winning a prestigious regional competition.

Members of the Beacon Park seniors section fought off the challenges of more fashionable clubs with better facilities and more resources to win the South West Lancs Seniors League by six points.

While neighbouring clubs such as Hurlston Hall, Mossock Hall and Formby Hall fell by the wayside, the smaller but committed squad from the Up Holland club came up trumps to take the title.

New members Barry Baker and Ken Clarke played alongside regulars Tommy Jackson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Mike Stokes, John Stanley and Paul Bretherton to form the nucleus of the winning team although vital contributions came from 27 senior members in total.

Highlights of the season incuded an 11-3 away win at Mossock Hall and a 14-0 home win against Sutton Hall.

A spokesperson for the team said: "Special mention must also go to Bob Ratcliffe, Jack Sockett, Pat Higgins and Ceasar Marchesean, all of whom are close to 80 years of age but made valuable contributions. They keep themselves fit in body and mind by playing regularly at Beacon Park."

The senior section is open to players of all golfing ability, playing every Tuesday throughout the year in a variety of competitions which satisfy Council of National Golf Unions handicap regulations but maintain a fun and social element. As well as league matches the club features stroke play, stableford, Texas scramble and four clubs and a putter competitions.

Anyone interested in joining the senior section can ring Mike Collins on 07725 180 354.

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From 'hopeless' case to Woman of the Year...

Report by **Henry James**

WHEN Diane Seddon joined her local Slimming World group at Ormskirk Rugby Club she confesses she felt she was a hopeless case - but 20 months later she has been crowned its 'Woman of the Year' 2018 thanks to a "life-changing" five stone weight loss.

Diane, who has gone from a size 20 to a size 12 or 14, said: "When I started out I never dreamt I'd be able to achieve all that I have.

"Losing the weight has made such a big difference - it's changed my life. My health is better, I have more energy and I'm much happier now, I definitely feel more comfortable in my own skin."

Joining Slimming World in January 2017 after becoming increasingly unhappy with her size, Diane lost five pounds in her first week.

Then she went on to lose a stone in eight weeks and was blown away that the changes she'd made had such a big impact so quickly.

And as the weight started to come off, her fitness improved and she now loves running.

Amazing

She said: "I started with the app Couch to 5k and I am now running several times a week - before I joined I found it hard to even get off the couch!

"I feel like a different woman to the person who walked into Slimming World 20 months ago and winning Woman of the Year is a real honour because there are so many amazing members in our group.

"I remember feeling like there was no hope when it came to my weight but I've realised that when people believe in you - and you believe in yourself - you can do anything you set your mind to.

"I really hope my weight loss can inspire other people to get started on their own journey and know that there's a whole group of people waiting to support them every step of the way."

Diane's Slimming World consultant, Tina Whewell, said: "I'm so proud of Diane. She's a fantastic ambassador for Slimming World and what she's achieved is nothing short of incredible. She's a huge inspiration to everyone in our group and I hope she inspires other women - and men - in West Lancs to change their lives in the same way."

Diane Seddon pictured before and after joining Slimming World and shedding a life-changing five stones.

Northern Rail accused of 'disregard' for passengers

...but company says union strike action is 'frustrating'

A COUNTY councillor has accused Northern Rail of showing disregard for passengers by failing to "engage in meaningful talks with the RMT" in the long-running dispute over plans to introduce driver-only trains.

However, the company says it is "trying to fix" the dispute and described the union's decision to stage further one-day strikes on Saturdays throughout September as "frustrating and disappoiting."

County Councillor Erica Lewis.

County Councillor Erica Lewis, the Labour group spokesperson for highways and transport on Lancashire County Council, said: "Once again passengers on Northern Rail are facing cancellations on not just one, but six weekends in a row. Whether people are travelling for work or pleasure over the weekend the ongoing disruption highlights Northern's disregard for the chaos it continues to cause in people's lives.

"The failure of Northern Rail to engage in meaningful talks with the RMT seems fundamentally foolish. The travelling public right across Lancashire support guards on trains and staff at stations.

"Northern have built a model that relies on the goodwill of staff to keep the trains running but seem unable to see that their oppositional stance to their staff, union and public only erodes any goodwill that was left.

"Passengers in the north continue to be let down by Northern Rail, and yet despite a dreadful year for rail passengers, we'll see fares increase by 3.2% in January. They deserve better."

Richard Allan, deputy managing director for Northern, responded: "The RMT's announcement of three more strike days - less than a week since they agreed to ACAS talks - is incredibly frustrating and disappointing. This will be a further blow for our customers.

"We're trying to fix this dispute. Since the RMT agreed to reconvene the joint steering committee meetings and ACAS mediated talks, we are in the midst of arranging dates to meet. We have again urged the union to suspend any planned strikes. Instead, they have chosen to strike on every Saturday in September.

"We are delivering the biggest modernisation programme in a generation. The Pacer trains will be retired, all remaining trains will be refurbished to a high standard and we will provide an additional 2,000 services per week. We maintain that talking costs nothing, whilst strike action causes inconvenience to customers and damages the case for long-term investment in rail."

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Online applications for 2019 schools places go 'live'

PARENTS are being reminded that online applications for Lancashire school places went 'live' on Monday (September 3) for children either starting primary school, or moving to secondary school in September 2019.

Last year 95% of parents applied online for primary and secondary school places.

County Councillor Susie Charles, the county council's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "The number of people who chose to apply online last year was really high. Online is a quick, easy and secure way to apply for school places.

"I would encourage parents to go online as soon as possible. I'm sure they will find it useful to familiarise themselves with the process and take a look at the admissions criteria of the schools they're considering.

Prepared

"Unfortunately some applications come in late every year and these simply can't be considered at the same time as those we receive on time.

So it is much better to be prepared early, rather than rushing your application close to the deadline. This way there is time to spare to sort out any problems or get any advice.

"It is important to remember as well that having a child already at a school does not automatically mean that a brother or sister will be allocated a place - you must still apply."

Applications opened on Monday and the national closing dates are October 31 for secondary schools, and January 15 next year for primary schools.

Children start primary school in the September after their fourth birthday.

More information at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools or call 0300 123 6707.

County Councillor Susie Charles

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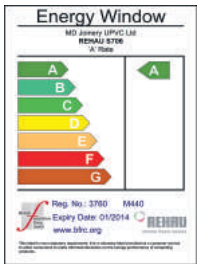

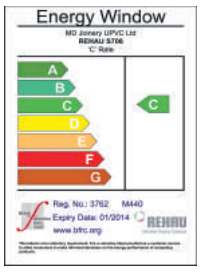

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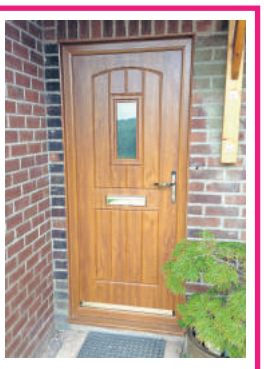

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National Dementia Carers' Day

Sunday 9 September 2018

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Many people living with dementia rely on the love, support and care of family members, friends and unpaid carers.

Now in its fourth year, the annual awareness day will this year take place on Sunday 9th September 2018, within Alzheimer's Awareness Month.
It aims to highlight the huge number of informal and family carers who provide innovative and compassionate support for relatives with dementia every day.

NDCD has been founded by a coalition of partners including Dementia UK, Alzheimer's Society and SweetTree Home Care Services. Each of the foundering organisations are dedicated to improving quality of life for people living with dementia and the quality of life of those caring for a loved one living with the condition.

The founders are aligned in the overall aim of raising awareness of and supporting the role of informal dementia carers.

Caring for a loved one with dementia poses many challenges for families and caregivers. Living with dementia requires having the right care, and it's time to recognise and share what it means to be a carer.

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National Dementia Carers' Day

Sunday 9 September 2018

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The efforts of thousands of 'hidden' carers across the UK who are supporting someone close to them who has dementia, will again be highlighted as part of National Dementia Carers' Day (Sunday 9th September 2018).

Now in its fourth year and falling within Alzheimer's Awareness Month, the national day was introduced to recognise and celebrate informal dementia carers, while highlighting what it means to be a carer.

The focus of this year's campaign is 'Sharing'. Carers are invited to connect and share their experiences, tips and stories; while members of the public are encouraged to get involved by sharing their appreciation for a dementia carer they know.

Support organisations, charities and community groups are also being urged to get behind the campaign by spreading awareness and helping to signpost local sources of advice and support using **#NDCD18**.

According to Alzheimer's Research:

- There are currently around 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK, who are being cared for by 700,000 informal carers
- Over a third of the population (38%) know a family member or close friend living with dementia
- 39% of informal carers are estimated to spend more than 100 hours per week caring for the person with dementia
- 1% say they have had no or not enough support

"When you're caring for a loved one with dementia the world can be a very lonely place sometimes and as the disease progresses new challenges can often arise," commented Nicki Bones from SweetTree Home Care Services, one of the founders of the day.

"Raising awareness is vital if we are to build dementia-friendly communities. That's why we came together with Alzheimer's Society and Dementia UK to launch National Dementia Carers' Day and we're delighted that support continues to grow for the campaign year on year."

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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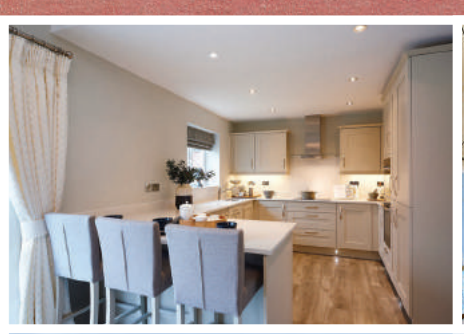

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

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Tribute band to thank Abba for their music

THEATRE audiences from across Great Britain and Sweden have long enjoyed ABBA – Forever, a recreation of possibly the world's greatest pop band.

The unique Abba sound is replicated with attention to detail, using a six-piece band featuring electric and acoustic guitars, keyboards and piano, drums and bass guitar.

Abba Forever will be at the Southport theatre on Thursday, September 13 at 7.30pm.

Two outstanding Abba girls complete the line-up, adding the essential glitz and glamour to a well-polished and gently humorous show. The superb lyrics penned by Benny and Bjorn are sung in harmony by all six performers on stage.

Non-stop choreography, visuals, musicianship and an all live performance ensures that the ABBA Forever show captivates audiences from the opening refrain to the final sing-along chorus of this two-hour spectacular.

Sweeney Entertainments, co-founded by Julie and Peter Sweeney, has been providing a wide repertoire of touring shows for theatre and corporate events for more than 15 years both in the UK and internationally.

Abba Forever

Julie said: "Abba Forever is a great concert experience for all ages, authentically reproducing some of the best pop hits of all time."

Jane Ellis, who performs as Agnetha in the show, said: "I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to perform some of the best songs of all time and tour some of the UK's most prestigious venues and beautiful theatres. We play all the big Abba hits and more, even putting some surprise album tracks in there for the most ardent Abba fan."

Youth production had many spellbinding performances

Review by **Ron Ellis**

Godspell (The 2012 Revival)
SDC Youth Theatre
Little Theatre, Southport

GODSPELL was first released in the Seventies in the age of rock operas like Hair and Jesus Christ Superstar and Joseph & The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. For some unfathomable reason, it was resurrected as an updated version in 2012 making it more like a garage rave than a folk/hippie convention.

An impressive set depicting an apocalyptic car scrapyard made an ideal playground for the cast to demonstrate their agility and youthful exuberance as they negotiated a series of acrobatic manoeuvres, carefully choreographed by Pippa Morris, some of which would not have been out of place in a circus ring. The timing of the dance moves was excellent.

To bring it further up to date, references were made in the script to 21st century people such as Westminster comedian Boris Johnson.

Eve McNamara and Lisa Carlin were in charge of the spectacularly colourful costumes which matched the frenetic tempo and slapstick nature of the show.

Charlie McMullan starred as Jesus Christ, retelling the parables based on the Book of St. Matthew, in a series of knockabout sketches, with Tom McMullan in a dual role as John the Baptist and traitor Judas Iscariot.

Martha Jenkinson, Ellie McKinnon, Charley Webster, Ben Ankers, Matty Higginson, Lucy Brindle, Eleanor Gillow and Harry Gascoine made up the rest of cast, backed up with 13 dancers.

M.D. Chris Rimmer provided the piano accompaniment, which was augmented by three guitars, keyboard and drums, creating a booming crescendo of sound to compete with the relentless shouting as the disciples argued and celebrated in turn like partygoers high on speed.

A scene from Godspell. Picture by Fletcher Hill photography

It must have been a nightmare to stage but, under the competent direction of John Delahunty, everything fell into place on the night.

Definitely a young people's version of the musical and as it ended, with Jesus on the cross, the disciples wandered off the stage one by one and the curtain came down. There was no resurrection and no curtain call.

Star Rating: 6 out of 10. Extremely well performed but a manic conception.

Singer's 70 year career to be marked at theatre

A NEW production celebrating the life and music of renowned singer-songwriter Paul Simon comes to the Liverpool stage later this year.

An extra performance has already been added due to popular demand, now becoming a two-night run.

Something About Simon, from producers Something About Productions and Bill Elms, will premiere at the Epstein Theatre on Tuesday, November 6 and Wednesday, November 7 with tickets on sale now.

With a phenomenal career that has spanned over seven decades, Paul Simon is a name that has cemented itself into the "hearts and bones" of audiences all over the world.

With his beginnings as one half of duo Simon and Garfunkel, he went on to forge a hugely successful solo career gaining recognition worldwide with 13 multi-million selling albums, a staggering 16 Grammy Awards and countless other awards and accolades.

Now, in this new show, Liverpool singer-songwriter Gary Edward Jones tells the unique story of one of his idols, combining visuals, stage design, storytelling and, of course… the music.

City event could be just the tonic for borough's gin lovers

GIN lovers are in for a real tonic when the largest gathering and celebration of gin brands Merseyside has ever seen heads to Liverpool Exhibition Centre.

'The Gin To My Tonic Show' takes place on September 7, 8 & 9 and will feature unlimited gin tastings, a sensory world tour – with over 60 drinks brands in attendance, including gins from France, Holland, UK, Germany, Sri-Lanka, Australia, New Zealand and USA.

You can get hands-on by making your own cocktail creations with leading mixologists, or you can simply relax and watch the action from the cocktail bar.

There will also be an opportunity to take part in 'Tonic Tutorials' where you can experiment with a wide range of tonic flavours, from the traditional to the more innovative including Pomegranate and Basil, Pink Pepper, Salty Lemon, and Blood Orange & Cinnamon!

Or, if fruit gins are your thing, try new flavours such as Rhubarb, Strawberry & Basil, Raspberry & Blackberry, Spit-roasted Pineapple… or even Black Tomato!

There's the chance to meet the Craft Gin Club who will be making their first live event appearance and there will be exclusive presentations on everything you need to know about the world of gin from some of the industry's leading distillers!

The event will showcase local producers including Turncoat, The Ginsmiths of Liverpool and Three Graces Rose Gin and there will be the opportunity to meet the teams behind the brands and discover what makes their creations unique.

For show times or to book tickets visit www.thegintomytonic.com or call the Exhibition Centre on 0844 809 4620.

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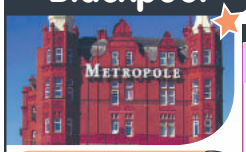

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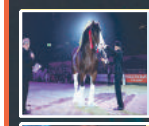

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2 BOOKCASES Light Veneer ready assembled bookcases, will sell separately 38 inch high, 29 inch wide,10 inch deep good condition £10 each 07756229527

CLOAKROOM BASIN Small corner basin (porcelain) no taps/waste, new unused still boxed. Suitable for utility/cloakroom £15. Email pictures available, buyer collects. 0151 2860268

BEDDING SET Eyelet curtains 66x72, matching King Size quilt cover and pillowcases. Grey, white and gold geometric design from Next £50 0151 9321725

HOUSE AND HOME

FURNITURE SET Solid Mahogany Matching TV Unit Coffee Table & Sideboard, High Polish Finish, Photos & Dimensions Available, Bargain at $325 Buyer to Collect 07305 839665

TUMBLE DRIER White knight,6kg with reverse tumble drying guide with 2heat settings made in uk,model 44aw, surplus to requirements good condition £45 01704808691 Ainsdale

PRINT ON canvas. Modern. Red flowered plant in terracotta vase + terracotta bowls. Light creamish background. H&W79.5cm. D2.5cm. Excellent condition. £10 01704 808024/07763000776

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WASHER/DRYER Daewoo Combined washing machine and tumble dryer. Large 9kg load capacity. Good working order. Southport/Birkdale. Buyer collects. £60 ono 07941110621

PHILLIPS HOSTESS TROLLEY Original version with 4 heated dishes £75 Tel:01695 421317

HOUSE AND HOME

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SOLID OAK King size bed, wardrobe, tall boy chest, 2x bedside tables. Excellent condition, like new. £800 ono. Can be sold separatly. 07921537076

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SETTEE&CHAIR 3 seater settee, chair and pouffe, brown/orange flecks, average condition for settee, sturdy and well built DFS £75 ono 07593099740

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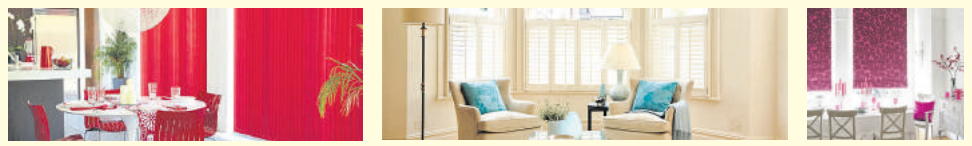

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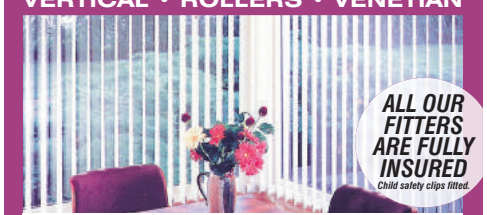

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HOUSE AND HOME

LOUNGE SUITE 3 seater settee + 2 chairs. Beige/stone colour. Excellent condition - less than 12 months old. Bargain £425.00 01772 812767

MINI OVEN white eletric oven with 2 rings on top, 23 inch wide, 13 inch high, 14 inch deep good working order £30 07756229527

DINNING TABLE Small round , light solid wood table with 2 matching chairs 29 inch wide, good condition £60 07756229527

GARDEN CHAIRS 3 wicker chairs, two large, one small. All in good condition for £25. Email pictures available, buyer collects. 0151 2860268

COFFEE TABLE Oval mahogany pedestal table, 46"x30" & 20" high rope effect detail around the edge nice piece of furniture £40ono 07976735285

BUNK BEDS silver metal 2 mattresses 2 duvet 2 duvet covers 2 pillow cases all matching only used for grandchildren visits £125 01704380914

SANDERSON FABRIC 27yds x54inch wide curtain material,pink,grey+aqua watermark in wide stripe £45, ainsdale. 01704808691 Ainsdale

BED,HYPNOS Quality, Heritage Premiere king sized bed, with headboard:. in good condition. £55. Buyer collects. 01704 500410

CANVAS PRINT Mid blue & aqua green. Abstract water. H&W50cm. D3cm. Very good condition. 01704 808024/07763000776

STANDARD FLOOR lamp in mahogany wood stand and base with lined cream shade excellent condition from John Lewis may deliver £90 ono 01515263851

CREAM LINED curtains two sets 90" drop with valance tie backs and rails all excellent condition may deliver £100 ono 01515263851

CIRCULAR TABLE Small solid wood drop leaf table, 15" wide when open, 19" high. 4" wide when closed. Piano hinges. £10.00 07387439004

BEDROOM FURNITURE Girls Single bedstead , desk (with swivel mirror)& chair all have Diamante finials from Next £150 ono 07759812358

SCHOOL DESKS Wooden school type desk with lift up lid and ink well. £15 Wooden fold down school type desk £10 07766285290

CONSERVATORY SUITE Wicker with cream cushions. 2 seater sofa, large 2 seater sofa, armchair, footstool and matching side table. £120. 01695 423083

PINE DRESSING TABLE 4 draw each side dressing table and pair of 3 draw bedside tables, £35 Burscough 07736642788

HOUSE AND HOME

CHAIRS PAIR Two black fabric square tub chairs with wooden arm rests, very solid and clean. £45 Burscough 07736642788

TABLE & CHAIRS Beech effect table & 6 faux leather chairs excellent condition £100 ONO 07835319027

CORNER UNIT Tall slim mahogany unit with top glass display and lower base cupboard excellent condition £75 07751924207

AIR CONDITIONING Unit, free standing, on wheels, with venting tube, good condition. £75. 01704 530137

ANTIQUE OAK Chest, 4ft wide, 21ins deep X 32ins high, lift up lid, paneled front, 2 drawers, nice condition, £150. 01704 530137

TV STAND Black glass with 2 lower shelves.28 by 18 inches. Good condition. Fits TV up to 49 inches £12 07845328005

AIR BED Blow up bed with stand and electric pump in carry bag. Used twice. Cost £60. Bargain £15 Ainsdale 07845188005

HOOVER BAGS Genuine Miele FJM red pack of 4. No filters. Ainsdale collection. Fits Compact and S series. £5 07845328005

DINING TABLE Taskers solid light Oak extending table and 4 chairs very good condition £100 buyer collects 07966245110

DC07 DYSON all floors, bagless upright with all tools, surplus to requirements, can deliver £45 01704214498

COT dropside, excellent condition. wood, Cosatto, with almost new mattress if required. £15. 07757432789

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DAVENPORT DESK Solid mahogany, carved legs, leather inlay, lovely piece of furniture, .reproduction. £75 0151 9281955

PINE BENCH Antique school or old hall pine bench 6ft long, legs fold flat when not in use. £70 0151 9281955

LEATHER SUITE Cream 2 seater sofa, 2 chairs (all recliners) and storage foot stool.
£300.00 ono 01704538825

NEST OFTABLES Mahogany style. Three tables. Very good condition. Buyer collects. £18 01704 576964

DINING CHAIRS 4 sets of dining chairs £1 each chair 01704578394

COFFEE TABLE solid ash coffee table good condition L 39 x w 13 x h 14 inches £30 01704578394

BREAD MAKER Cook works XBM11295 vgc £15 01515260731

DOLCE GUSTO Nescafé coffee maker used once £15 01515260731

MISC

RAF ANNIVERSARY SPITFIRE Wall Clock. With hanger, model Spitfire, aircraft sounds. 2 weights but electric. £45. 01704 548936

5 ANTIQUE GRECON DOLLS HOUSE DOLLS and Grecon Book, D Beaver Hall. £85 01704 548936

DESK TRAY 3 sided desk tray in teak with black stand in good condition £10. Email pictures available buyer collects. 0151 2860268

DESK TRAY 2 tray Mallod desk tray, teak with chrome stand, good condition £10. Email pictures available buyer collects. 0151 2860268

OLEG MEERKAT Limited edition Oleg as "Beast" from Beauty and the Beast. Boxed with adoption papers. Unused. £15 07599524763

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MOBILITY WALKER Four wheeled walker with seat, brakes, and attached bag.Absolute bargain. £40.00 07387439004

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WASHING MACHINE Hotpoint Aquarius A+ machine 7kg, White. Excellent condition hardly used £75 01704 228373

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SELF-PROPELLED wheelchair, very comfortable, easily folds for transport, can deliver £65 01704214498

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MGF LUGGAGE Rack. All brackets. Offers around 50. If interested please call between 1pm and 8pm 01704630912

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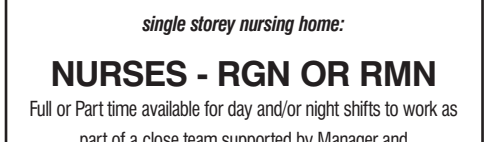

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We are currently seeking to fill an administration position in our Income Generation Team.

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6 month fixed term contract initially; Full time (although job share considered)

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The successful candidate will have a successful track record of carrying out administration duties within a busy working environment, including excellent IT skills with experience of using a database. Occasional out of hours working is required. A full list of required skills and experience is available in the job description from our website.

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: **Sunday, 16th September 2018**
INTERVIEWS TO BE HELD ON: **Friday, 28th September 2018**

For further information or to arrange an informal visit, please contact Kate Thomas, Head of Income Generation on 01704 517420. Application forms and job descriptions are available from www.queenscourt.org.uk/jobs

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- Initiative
- Organisational skills
- A keen eye for detail
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- This is an excellent opportunity for someone to further develop their career in the property sector with a successful company with ambitious plans.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 14th September 2018

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Interviews will be held on **18th September 2018**

new focus

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Applicants must have a strong value base, with an ability to respect the clients' wishes and views and enable them to enjoy a full and enriched life of their choosing, confident of high quality, safe services, promoting independence, well-being and dignity.

Phone **(01772) 333800** or email: **recruitment@integratepreston.org.uk** with your CV.

Closing Date: Monday 10th September 2018

(Please note interviews may be arranged prior to this date for early applications)

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Holiday Care Assistant

Revitalise is the UK's largest provider of respite holiday breaks with 24-hour nursing care for people with disabilities and carers. Our work is underpinned by one immutable belief – everybody needs a break.

Our three holiday centres in Chigwell in Essex, Southampton and Southport now provide close to 5,000 essential breaks each year for disabled people and those who care for them. By providing warm personal care with imaginative excursions, activities and entertainment in an informal, holiday environment, we give our guests something truly unique – a break that feels like a proper holiday – and one from which they go home revitalised and happy; better able to cope with their daily challenges.

As a Holiday Care Assistant you will:Support our experienced team in the provision of high quality care for our guests. The successful applicant should be a committed and enthusiastic team player, and have the ability to provide an outstanding service in a busy care environment. Experience in care or hospitality is preferred but not essential as full training is provided.

The Ideal Candidate:

You will be Determined, Caring, Imaginative and Encouraging. You will need to be reliable, have a degree of flexibility and be able to work as part of a team. It is important that you understand what it means to work with people of all abilities as providing excellent service is paramount at Revitalise.

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- 23 days (pro rata) holiday, plus bank holidays (increasing to 28 annually after 2 years service)
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- Love2shop Cards
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If you think you have what it takes to join our committed team and want more information or an application pack please call

Steph Sutherlandon 01704 538388 or email

ssutherland@revitalise.org.uk

www.revitalise.org.uk

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU SOON

The position is subject to an enhanced DBS Disclosure and POVA/POCA check. Revitalise is committed to equal opportunities- Registered charity no. 295072

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ROOF BOX Car Roof Top Box Karrite Mirage in Black with Straps, Max Load 50kg, length-51inch, width37inch, Height-16inch. £40. 07773090258

MORRIS MINOR 1967 2door salon white new clutch battery fuse box 2 font wing 1 rear wing fully resrayed tax £6000 ono 07902130751

MOTORING

DUNLOP TUBLESS SP Winter Sport tyres. 205/55R16 91H. Good condition. £40 for pair ono 01704514890 /07785566044

CAR TYRE Make - AutoGrip size 175/65/R14 tread depth 5mm £5 07742412634

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YAMAHA ACOUSTIC GUITAR £30 07956 304163

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HOME GYMNASIUM PRO 3 home gym - excellent condition rarely used, need space in garage £150 07946 068664

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GOLF CLUB Ben Hogan edge C.F.T hybrid rescue club 3h. Good condition £15.00 07912683245

GOLF CLUB Callaway FT9 driver 8.5 loft very good condition including head cover. £30.00 07912683245

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GOLF CLUBS Ladies, Wilson Patty Berg, 4, 8 ,9, SW and 3 wood with bag very good condition £25 ono 07731946207

PILATES MACHINE Ellen Croft's Supreme Pilates machine. VGC. £20 01704 577230

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100 X Golf Balls Good Quality all used but very good bargain the lot £15 07773242918

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOYS AND GAMES

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SPIROGRAPH Hours of fun to be had! £5 07759812358

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Plasto-Sac UK trading as Plasto-Sac UK Ltd of 9 Pit Hey Place, West Pimbo Industrial Estate, Skelmersdale WN8 9PS is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 4 trailers at the operating centre at 9 Pit Hey Place, West Pimbo Industrial Estate, Skelmersdale WN8 9PS.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

West Lancashire Borough Council

Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0813/FUL Proposed external landing, steps and handrails outside the bank entrance to allow inclusive access at Halifax, 1 Church Street, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0846/LBC Listed Building Consent - Proposed refurbishment of Gas Works Cottage to ancillary performing arts centre annex at Scarisbrick Hall School, Southport Road, Scarisbrick.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2018/0881/FUL Replacement of all windows and doors at 4 Plox Brow, Tarleton.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2018/0885/FUL Garaging and storage ancillary to the main farmhouse at Stand Farm, Spa Lane, Lathom.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2018/0886/FUL Replacement of existing vehicular access with new access to Asmall House Farm at Asmall House Farm, Asmall Lane, Scarisbrick.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used

The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration — Dated: 5th September 2018 PDNOT1009

Announcements

Call the Classified Sales Team on **01704 392392** or check-out our website **www.champnews.com**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GREAVES DORIS

John and Liz would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind thoughts, prayers and messages of sympathy following the sad loss of their Mum. Thank you for the generous donations for The British Heart Foundation. Grateful thanks to Reverend David Somerville and all at Moor Lane Methodist Church. Sincere thanks to H. Leslie Humphreys Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

NEWTON IAN JAMES

Joan & family would like to say thank you to everyone for the love and support shown to Ian, and to us, over the past months. Special thank you to Ian's carers, Silver Birch Nursing Home for looking after Ian and looking after us. Sally Hunter from MLS Funeral Independent Funeral Directors thank you for your guidance, and Rev. Lin Camp - thanks Linda for the beautiful Service. Ian was loved in life and will be loved forever.

BIMPSON CAROL

The family would like to express their most sincere heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the many relatives, friends and neighbours for all the heartfelt messages of condolence, sympathy cards, support and donations, for MIND and Ormskirk Parish Church, received during their recent sudden and very sad loss of Carol. Special thanks to Rev. Pauline Bicknell for the comforting Funeral Service, and to Sally Hunter and all the team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their kindness, compassion and support shown to us all throughout.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WILSON MARIA

Richard would like to express his sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the many messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations for St. Annes church received during his sad loss of his dear Wife Maria. Special thanks to Father Boniface for his kindness and prayers.

DEATHS

PORTER ALBERT

2nd September 2018
Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family aged 82 years

Beloved Father to Sue & Mark, Father in law to Ian, Grandfather to Chris, John & Stuart. Our hearts are broken, we've lost our Dad, Grandad, but most of all our best friend. Re-united with his Wife Joyce. Funeral service at St Helens Crematorium, Wednesday 12th September at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Alzheimers Society. Enquiries to Devonports Funeral Services Tel:01695 731199

LARGE KATHLEEN

(nee Gardner)

2nd September 2018
Peacefully at her home in Skelmersdale aged 69 years

The dearly loved Wife of Trevor, loving Mum of Deborah and Janet, dear Mother in law of Kevin and devoted Grandma of Jack, Adam and Ben. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

DYKES DUDLEY

24th August 2018
Peacefully at his home in Aughton aged 87 years

The dearly loved Husband of the late Joy, loving Dad of Ashley and Christopher and devoted Grandad to all his grand and great grandchildren. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 17th September 2018 at 1:45pm. Floral tributes welcome or donations if desired for North West Cancer Research. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 581769/720012

RIMMER JANET

28th August 2018
Suddenly at home after a long illness bravely borne aged 73 years of Skelmersdale

Dearly loved wife of Lin, much loved Mum of Michelle and Mike, and proud Grandma to Nancy, Jasmine and Fraser. Funeral Service at St. James' Church Westhead on Wednesday 12th September at 11.15am, followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium, Burscough. (Preferably no black to be worn). Family flowers only by request but donations if so desired are being gratefully received for The Brain Tumor charity. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 424888

DEATHS

HALL DONALD COPE (DON)

23rd August 2018
passed away peacefully after a short illness aged 92 years of Maghull

Will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 7th September at 10.45am, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Burscough Methodist Church at 11.30am. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired for the Alzheimer's Society. Donations and further enquires please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Tel: 01695 424888.

IN MEMORIAM

WILKINSON KENNETH

6th September 2014

4 years on and you are still dearly missed.

Forever in our thoughts.

Val, Angie, Andy, Ken, Alan, Rob, Kathy, Janet, Karen and Scott
xxxxxxxxx

ASHTON JEAN

7th September 2017

On this day we remember with great loving fondness and huge sadness. Quietly remembered every day, no longer in our life to share, but in our hearts you're always there.

"Loved always"

Loving Husband Les, much loved children Kari, Sally and Leslie and grandaughters Natasha, Isabel, Lucy and Rachael.

xxx

Announcements

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BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

MCLEAN JOAN

8th September Would have been your 82nd Birthday Mum

Today is full of memories,
Happiness and tears
Of Birthday celebrations
Shared through the years

I feel that you are with me
In everything I do,
So I'll celebrate your Birthday
But I'll spend it missing you

Love from
Gavin, Lilian, Patrick & Caitlin

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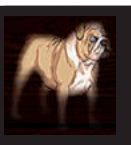

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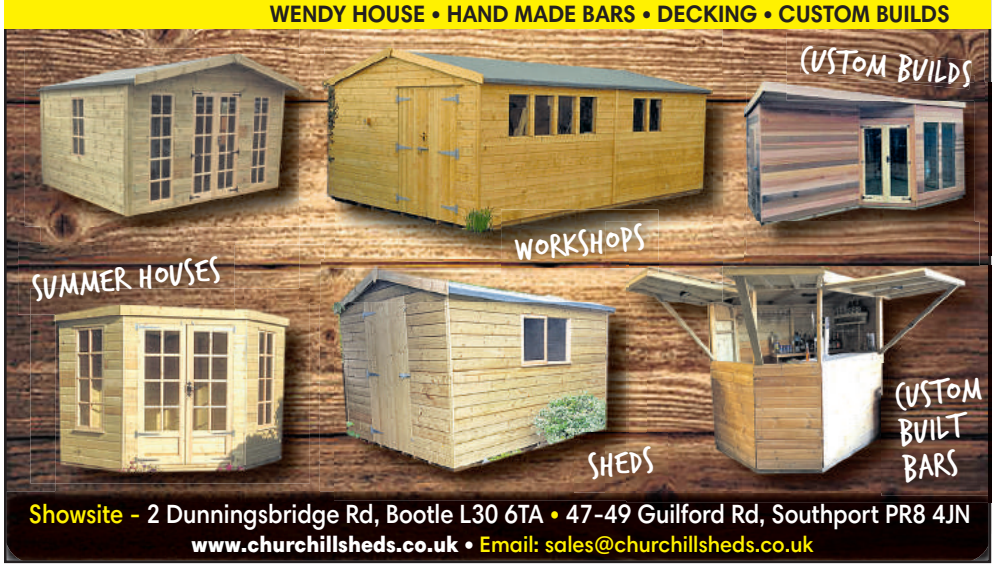

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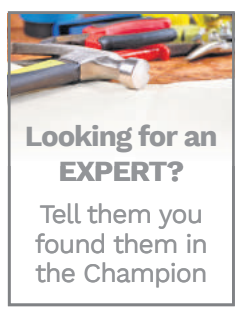

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The Mondeo might not be a bestseller any more, but it still has plenty of fans

The Grim Reaper will have to come back - the Ford Mondeo is alive!

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

THE Grim Reaper will have to pop round another time. Contrary to what you might have read elsewhere the Ford Mondeo is alive and well, and I reckon it will be for a while yet.

The car's makers have been forced to defend its family favourite this week, after a financial analysis suggested that it – and the Galaxy and S-Max people carriers too, for that matter – be quietly pensioned off (with a few thousand job cuts too, unfortunately). The Mondeo, it says, is a core part of its British range, even if when you look at the sales stats its spot in the bestsellers list has clearly been snatched by the trendier Kuga.

It's also abundantly clear that the family saloons the Mondeo traditionally squares up to are a bit of a dying breed. Brits can no longer buy a brand-new Nissan Primera, Citroen C5, Renault Laguna, Honda Accord or Toyota Avensis. Rover and Saab are long gone.

Vauxhall is still doing admirably well with its Insignia, VW offers a triple whammy with the Passat and its Octavia and Toledo cousins, there's the Peugeot 508 and Mazda 6 – and that's about it. Mondeo Man has either moved up to an A4 or 3-Series, or ditched saloons altogether for SUVs. Both, whichever way you cut it, have rather more panache than living in the past with the poor old Mondeo.

All of which makes me a bit sad because it reminds me of a bit of a recurring car nut truism; everyone I know who really, *really* likes cars rates the Mondeo.

I have many fond memories of stuffing unreasonably large amounts of IKEA clobber into the back of an ST TDCi Estate and then blasting up the M57 on its seemingly endless reserves of mid-range torque.

Or that time I drove 2.5-litre V6 Cougar – the Mondeo's short-lived coupe cousin – and being so impressed that I nearly bought it. Or the time I tried a 2001 Ghia X and was so won over that I actually *did* buy it. It's the same with all my petrolhead pals – almost all of them have owned a Mondeo at some point, because they do everything you could ever ask a family car to while still being a joy through the bends.

The Mondeo's a bit like Three Lions – inescapably associated with the Nineties, but on the right day and with a suitably optimistic bunch of England fans it can still top the pop charts in 2018. There's nothing wrong with Calvin Harris and Ariana Grande, of course, but I think I'll stick with the Lightning Seeds…

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

The Car Finance Companies

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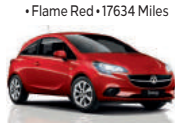
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Five star Linnets ease into next round of FA Vase

Burscough 5
Alsager Town 1

BURSCOUGH continued their run of cup form in the FA Vase when they put five past Alsager Town.

The Linnets have taken the first step towards Wembley after easing past Alsager with a commanding performance which impressed the supporters last Saturday.

Starting without injured centre-forward Chad Whyte, the Linnets still managed to run up five goals on the day to cruise through to the next round.

Burscough took the lead after 25 minutes, Will Doherty the player who had 'inherited' Whyte's number nine shirt finding the net.

However Burscough were soon pegged back as the Staffordshire based opposition equalised inside two minutes via their captain Ryan Goodwin.

One captain had struck for Alsager, in the 36th minute it was Burscough captain Danny Brady's turn to register on the score sheet and it was with the goal of the game. Brady setting off on a solo run before firing past visiting goalkeeper Rhys Bills.

Two minutes before half-time Burscough made it 3-1. An excellent team move put the ball to Terry Cummings he set Jordan Lorde up and the former Burscough Richmond striker added to his increasing local reputation by giving his team a cushion to take into the interval.

The game was effectively won just after the hour mark, Prince Ekpolo scoring to finish another good build-up.

It was all left to Lorde to score his second of the day 14 minutes from the end to send Burscough through to the Second Qualifying Round, where they will face the short but far from easy trip to Irlam on Saturday, September 15.

Whyte faces race against time to be fit for cup clash

BURSCOUGH make the trip to Warrington Town on Saturday in the FA Cup First Qualifying Round and although they travel as underdogs, their chances will certainly be enhanced if centre-forward Chad Whyte makes the starting line-up.

Whyte, who scored over 40 goals last season for the Linnets, is seen by many at Victoria Park as something of a talisman, but he received a nasty cut on his knee during last Monday's game at City of Liverpool requiring seven stitches.

A Burscough official said he is due to have the stitches out today (Wednesday, September 5) it is then a question of how badly his knee has reacted to the injury.

As stated last week, Warrington's assistant manager is former Burscough manager Mark Beasley, a man who actually lives in Burscough.

He allegedly left Burscough after a row with club officials, so he will be doing all he can to fire his team up for the match.

If a replay is required, that will be staged at Victoria Park on Tuesday, Septemner 11, kick off 7.45pm and the scheduled home league match for that night against Winsford United will be rearranged.

Skelmersdale United don't have a game scheduled for this Saturday, but might still have one.

The Evo-Stik League have told them that if last night's (Tuesday, September 4) FA Cup replay between Glossop North End and City of Liverpool ends in a defeat for Glossop, Skelmersdale will travel to play the Derbyshire based club on Saturday in a league game.

Chad Whyte

If the Glossop match doesn't materialise Skelmersdale's next game is a home Evo-Stik West Division encounter against current leaders Radcliffe, on Wednesday, September 12 at Prescot, kick off 7.45pm.

One bit of news for Skelmersdale supporters is that we understand an appeal has been lodged with the FA against the sending off of goalkeeper Terry Smith last Saturday. It will be heard later in the week.

If they are successful he will be available for their next game whether that be Saturday or next Wednesday.

If not they will have to bring in a keeper for the game or bring in Chris Cheetham, although Cheetham has joined Charnock Richard he is co-registered still for Skem and eligible to play.

Bohannon sees Lancashire home to a stunning victory

ORMSKIRK player Josh Bohannon played a starring role in Lancashire's stunning victory over Worcestershire in the County Championship Division One match at the S&B's Trafalgar Road ground last week, writes Glenn Wallworth.

Josh Bohannon in action. Picture by Simon Pendrigh

More than 6,000 spectators watched the match which was largely dominated by Worcestershire for the first two and a half days, before a remarkable fightback led by skipper Dane Vilas and 21 year old Bohannon.

It had looked like Lancashire were heading for certain defeat when Bohannon came into bat with the Red Rose county on 178-6 chasing an unlikely 319 for victory.

But Bohannon and Villas saw Lancashire claw their way back into the match and eventually triumph late on Friday afternoon, with ecstatic supporters on their feet as the winning runs were hit.

Local favourite Bohannon fully deserved his moment of glory on his former stomping ground in front of all his family and former team mates.

Playing in only his second championship match he cracked 14x4 in an unbeaten 78* and shared in a match winning 139 unbroken seventh wicket partnership with Vilas 107*.

He's got a bright future ahead at county level especially if he can keep up his current 58.33 first class average!

Northern's Tom Bailey also played a major part in Lancashire's four wicket victory, as his 4-41 and 3-53 took him top of the first division wicket taking charts with 48 for the season.

Rankin hits 86 in huge win for Ormskirk

SECOND placed Ormskirk had a huge 143 run win at relegated Highfield on Saturday, writes Glenn Wallworth..

Ormskirk chose to bat and thanks to runs from Alex Rankin 86, John Armstrong 67, Andy Baybutt 38* and Gary Knight 31* were able to declare on 236-3.

In reply 4-20 from Scott Lees and 4-28 from Ryan Maddock helped bowl out the hosts for just 93 to seal victory.

Formby just failed to force victory at Bootle when the match ended with nine wickets down for the home side.

Asked to bat first, Formby, Tim Smithies 49 and Ben Aitchison 428 top scored as they declared on 218-9, with Chris Liptrot taking 4-66. In reply, Danny Davies 44 and Vishal Tripathi 39 then top scored for Bootle who ended on 190-9 with Lukman Vahaluwala 3-27 and Sabbir Patel 3-44 taking the bulk of the wickets.

The 2018 Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division title is still undecided after Lytham's last pair denied leaders Northern the win they needed to lift the trophy at Moor Park.

Northern chose to bat and thanks to a century from Liam Grey 101 and 72 from Chris Laker were able to declare their innings on 236-8, with Josh Holden 5-42 and Lancashire's Steven Croft 3-38 on form with the ball.

In reply, Lytham slipped to 80-7 before a remarkable fightback from skipper Ben Saunders 86 and Matthew Taaffe 47 almost led the visitors to victory before time had the final say as they closed on 232-9, with spinner Tom Sephton taking his league wicket tally to 85 for the season with 7-110.

In the First Division Burscough live to fight another day after a 43 home win against Prestatyn.

Burscough were asked to bat and managed to post 191 up on the board thanks to vital runs from Jon Stone 61, Matthew Wright 48 and Ryan Hughes 42 with Peter Cassidy taking 4-71 with the ball.

In reply, Cassidy top scored with 51 as the visitors were dismissed for 148 with Hughes 5-51 and Brendan Domigan 4-45 doing the damage with the ball.

Skem nightmare as they concede nine

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Atherton Collieries 9
Skelmersdale United 1

A NIGHTMARE performance from Skelmersdale saw them concede nine goals against Atherton Collieries.

Skem opened the scoring when a corner was played to outside the 18 yard box to Tom Molyneux who cleverly found Paul Ennis with a low ball into the goalmouth. The Skem midfielder played a first time side foot shot across Bacon into the corner of the net to give Skem the lead.

In the next 15 minutes Bacon made saves from Yeldrem, Griffiths and Kevin Edgar as Skem pushed forwards and sought out a second goal.

Gradually Atherton came more into the game and equalised in the 24th minute, a poor clearance at the far post sent the ball skyward and when it dropped Ben Hardcastle had the space to control it and place it inside Skem goalkeeper Terry Smith' right-hand post from ten yards.

Four minutes later a corner from the left saw Ian Rowlands run in at the far post and rise above the defence and head firmly into the net to make it 2-1.

In the 38th minute Ben Conway played a ball to feet to striker Jordan Cover, who dummied his marker and sent the ball low into the Skelmersdale net to make it 3-1 with his right foot.

Skelmersdale were still posing a fair old threat to Atherton though, but that all ended on the stroke of half-time when a disastrous long distance back pass from Molyneux went straight to Cover who was in acres of space. He had a simple task of rounding keeper Smith and rolling the ball into an empty net.

Goals in 54 and 64 minutes made it 6-1 to Atherton. The first saw former Skelmersdale player Gareth Peet loft the ball to the far post from the left, as it dropped a completely unmarked Rowlands was able to stroke the ball into the far corner.

For the second Hardcastle had a shot blocked and the rebound fell perfectly to Cover, who completed his hat-trick by blasting through a group of players.

The last six minutes of the game were an absolute horror show from a Skelmersdale perspective.

First keeper Smith inexplicably dropped what was a simple pick up and in the effort to grab the ball felled Cover, and then the referee rather cruelly red carded the keeper.

Substitute Jack Fleming who is a full-back by trade went into goal, Hardcastle putting the resultant penalty in via a post.

Hardcastle went on the score a personal third and fourth goal, first blasting a shot high into the Skelmersdale goal then getting another from the penalty spot.

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